

400.01 Conference Lay Leader 2014-2015

As your Conference Lay Leader, I have had the opportunity to bring the meditation during several church services and meetings, and I was honored to represent you throughout the Conference at the following events, celebrations, trainings and committees:

- Conference Board of Laity, Chair
- Program Council
 - Nurture Team
 - Financial Report
- Northern Illinois Conference Cross-Cultural/Cross-Racial Task Force
 - Subcommittee on Churches in Changing Neighborhoods or with Substantial Differences in Member Profile and Neighborhood Profile
- Annual Conference Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Association of Annual Conference Lay Leaders
 - Annual Meeting of AACLL, “Conflict Transformation”- Baltimore, Maryland
- Annual Meeting of UMM
- Episcopacy Committee
- Preached at various churches in English and Spanish, and at Easter 2015 Sunrise Service in Daley Plaza, Chicago.
- Laity Sunday Service Meditation Lena UMC, Lena, Illinois
- Meditation about Laity Sunday, Antioch UMC, Antioch, Illinois
- Taste of Chicago Northwestern District
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Service, St. Mark UMC
- Spiritual Congress
- District Leadership Trainings
- Local Church
 - Administrative Council
 - Bilingual Liturgist
 - Spanish Adult Sunday School Teacher
 - Drama Ministry Actor
 - Preached in English and Spanish
- Yearly Laity Address
- Invitation Letter to Annual Conference
- Letter to New Church Start
- Historical Reports

By God’s grace I will have completed seven years as your Conference Lay Leader, as of the June 2015 Annual Conference. I ask for your continued prayers as I strive to be an effective Conference Lay Leader for all of you.

Arnold Rivera
Conference Lay Leader

400.02 Historical Report – Program Council

Our task as the Program Council is to work collaboratively with the Bishop, Cabinet and Staff of the Northern Illinois Conference to provide support to the groups, caucuses, boards and agencies that seek to bring the kingdom of God to fruition. In the Northern Illinois Conference, our work is organized into three work areas: Nurture, Outreach, and Witness and Advocacy. These work areas support our boards, agencies and groups not only by providing financial assistance but also by helping to connect them with other local, Conference and denominational groups who are working on similar issues so that partnerships might be formed and our resources maximized. Each of these work areas has much to celebrate from this past year of ministry, and countless lives and communities are being transformed because of our shared work. Just a snapshot of some of our ministries includes: Campus Ministry, Age-Related Programming across the Conference, Ethnic Caucus work, Acts of Repentance, Prison Ministry, JFON, Spiritual Formation and Laity Events, Conference Communications, Safe Sanctuary training and much much more!

The Program Council considers one of its main tasks to be storytelling. We assist our ministry partners in telling their stories of transformation, as evidence of the fruit that our Conference is producing and thereby build support for our missions and ministries. We celebrate the storytelling that happens through the new format of the narrative budget. We continue to work on aligning our budget with our ministry priorities demonstrating our collective understanding of what God's vision of the kingdom might look like in our local communities, our Conference and throughout the world. The Program Council is working with our ministry partners to provide evidence of fiscal accountability and audits through evaluative and creative conversations, ensuring that we are – together – acting as good stewards of the resources with which we have been entrusted.

Some of our most important work is to receive and evaluate Creative Ministry Grant Proposals, awarding grants to the most creative and collaborative. As funds have been reduced, we have become more attuned to our potential impact across the Conference, helping to foster the birth of new, sustainable programs and ministries. We celebrate how many congregations are actively engaged in their communities, continuing to find new ways to serve and love their neighbors. In 2015, we were able to award \$19,970 to seventeen different ministries from Chicago to Milledgeville, meeting the needs of children, youth, adults, and seniors, addressing injustice, and responding to a variety of felt needs. Thank you, Northern Illinois Conference for allowing us to partner with you in such vital ministry!

Rev. Christopher Winkler, Program Council Chair
Rev. Carol Hill, Program Council Secretary

400.03 PROGRAM COUNCIL - NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

The Nurture Ministry Team assists churches, districts, and our annual conference in areas of Age Level Ministries, Christian Education, Evangelism, Laity Ministries, Spiritual Formation, and Youth Ministries. While personal growth is expected and encouraged as a result of our programming, our focus is to empower and equip others. The main thrust is to provide tools to enhance the ministry of the participants in our programs and events, to equip them to go back to their local churches and share information and resources, thereby multiplying our efforts.

We also relate to and are the Northern Illinois Conference connection to four agencies beyond our conference. These agencies are ChildServ, Methodist Youth Services Inc. (MYSI), Rosecrance Health Network, and United Voices for Children. The Nurture Team Ministry committees are Board of Laity, Evangelism, Older Adult Council, Young Adult Council, Youth Ministries, Spiritual Formation, Worship, UMM, and UMW.

Highlights for this year include:

Board of Laity: Held a very successful Laity Convocation held at the Sycamore UMC with the theme "Who Is My Neighbor? The Wesley Way *TODAY* Can Show You!" Bishop Sally Dyck's keynote presentation reflected on how/what John Wesley taught, preached and lived as being as relevant today as it was in his times and how it's instructive in moving us forward in the mission of our denomination: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Four workshops were offered: "No Matter the Age, No Matter the Height, They are Precious in His Sight!" led by Pastor Ayla Samson-Zaki and Nura Zaki; "What about our leadership? Send Me Lord!" led by Rev. Luis Reyes and Elisa Gatz; "The Beauty of Diversity - The Diversity of Beauty" led by Rev. Young-Mee Park and Rev. Giovanni Arroyo; "WWJWD? (What Would John Wesley Do?)" led by Rev. Jonathan Dean and Ellen Feliciano. Over 200 laity and clergy braved the snow to attend. The Board of Laity successfully solicited and introduced at the Laity Session of Annual Conference those lay people interested in running to be delegates for the 2016 General and Jurisdictional Conferences. Finally, the Board of Laity reminded all churches of the importance of the laity in our church with the promotion of **Laity Sunday, October 19, 2014 and a theme of "Disciples Called to Action: Engaging Small Groups."**

The Older Adult Ministry: One focus this year was getting the word out about how OAM can help churches provide vital service to their older adult members. They sponsored tables at Annual Conference and the Laity Convocation to get the word out. They had a video presentation along with print literature and the friendly smile of OAM co-chair Pong Javier. They also presented workshops in several districts.

Young Adults Ministry: Focused on engaging local churches and leaders in determining best practices in ministry with young adults, gathering ministry ideas, and discerning needs within the conference. They have distributed many copies of two young adult Sunday school curriculums and are planning another round of curriculum writing to meet the unique needs of young adults in Northern Illinois. Young Adults across our conference had an opportunity to meet with Bishop Dyck on October 4th for playtime and discussion on ways to more actively include young adults within the church.

Youth Ministry: 7 youth and 3 adults left on July 21st for a twelve-day mission trip to Bolivia. The group had the opportunity to see many sites, meet a variety of people, and learn about the history and current events in Bolivia. They also participated in a science experiment

coordinated with Fermi Lab available through the connection of Elisa Gatz one of the adult chaperones July 21st.

Spiritual Formation: Bishop Dyck was the keynote speaker at the "Drawing Closer to God" workshop held on November 1st. Workshops included Labyrinth: Praying a Labyrinth as a Contemplative Practice; Photography: Use Contemplative Photography as a pathway toward creative spiritual observation with the heart; Praying the Scriptures: Explore meditation on God's Word with the prayer form of *lectio divina*; Prayer Beads: Learn how the ancient discipline of prayer beads can be used to rediscover sacred space and time.

It was with great sadness that the Nurture Ministry team hears that one of the agencies that we related to for the NIC closed its doors after 130 years of providing crucial social services to the Chicago Near West, North Lawndale and Austin communities. After an unsuccessful effort to raise much needed funds to offset the growing deficit, the Board of Directors of Marcy-Newberry Association, Inc. took the following action "to cease all programming activities after Friday, June 28, 2013 and that the final closing process be done by assigned staff in collaboration with the City of Chicago."

Nurture Team Members

Chair:	Mark Manzi
Board of Laity:	Arnold Rivera
Evangelism:	Robert Sathuri
Leadership Development:	Chris Pierson
Older Adult Council:	Pong Javier/ Jim Barry
Outdoor & Retreat Ministry:	Jeff Casey/Jim Miller
Spiritual Formation:	Judy Pohlman
Young Adult Ministry	Luke Pepper
Youth Council:	Barbara Javore
UMW:	Dottie Pridy
UMM:	Steve Nailor
Agencies:	ChildServ
	MYSI
	Rosecrance
	United Voices for Children

The Nurture Ministry Team is excited by the many possibilities and opportunities to serve the people of the Northern Illinois Council. We also hope that the churches of the NIC would call upon the Nurture Ministry Team as they find the need for assistance with the ministries described above.

Mark Manzi, Chair
Nurture Ministry Team of the
Program Council

400.04 Program Council: Outreach Ministry Team

Under the leadership of The Rev. Chris Pierson – Director of Connection Ministries, and The Rev. Michael Mann – Associate Director of Mission and Advocacy, our Boards, agencies and committees have continued to be in ministry within the Northern Illinois Conference and beyond.

The specific Conference Boards and Committees that compose the Outreach are

- Board of Church and Society,
- Board of Global Ministries,
- Campus Ministries,
- Committee on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Relations,
- Committee on Accessibility Ministries, and
- Volunteers in Mission/ Missions Secretary

Please read the detailed reports of each Board and Committee for a full update. Our greatest challenge going forward is to adequately fund such a large breadth of ministry and to engage churches across the conference more deeply in our work together.

Thankfully Submitted

Rev. Mary Zajac

Chair, Outreach Ministry Team of the Program Council

400.05 Program Council: Witness/Advocacy Ministry Team

The Witness and Advocacy work area of the NIC's program council includes committees, commissions and task forces whose general objectives are to provide advocacy and monitoring that help ensure our church is consistent with its stated values. The following committees, commissions and tasks forces fall under the Witness Advocacy umbrella. They each continue to advance their respective missions.

Anti-Gambling Task Force collaborates with the Illinois Church Action on Alcohol and Addiction Problems (ILCAAAP), the Chicago Task Force to Oppose Gambling in Chicago, and the Stop Predatory Gambling (SPG) (a national group).

Acts of Repentance supports vital Christians by engaging the assumptions individual persons have about their neighbors, especially Native American brothers and sisters.

Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal keeps before the Annual Conference crucial issues facing our community in a pluralistic church and society.

Committee on Native American Ministries seeks to educate about the culture of Native Americans, Native American theology, and ways of being in reconciled relationships with the Native community.

Commission on Religion and Race works to create vital congregations that are welcoming and hospitable places for all of God's children, both clergy to laity.

Commission on Status and Role of Women helps challenge our churches and denomination to work toward the full and equal participation of women in the total life of the church.

Fellowship of Asian Americans implements programs for congregational and leadership development within our Asian church community.

Hispanic Plan supports the development, implementation, and evaluation of a Hispanic/Latino Ministries comprehensive plan of action.

La junta Hispana- Latino Americana seeks to strengthen Hispanic/Latina culture and congregations within the Northern Illinois Conference.

Reconciling Ministries mobilizes United Methodists of all sexual orientations and gender identities to transform our church and the world into the full expression of Christ's inclusive love.

SBC 21 assists the Northern Illinois Conference in its support of predominately black churches by providing both with the tools and training necessary to become more effective in mission and ministry.

Humbly Submitted,
P. Devon Brown

400.06 Trustees, Conference Board of

During 2014, the Conference Board of Trustees continued to carry out its fiduciary responsibilities as the Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois Conference. Officers elected in June 2013 were: Robert Burkhart, President; Brian Smith, Vice President; Tari Crema, Harlene Harden, Mike Peters as additional members of Executive Committee. Paul Stevens, Harlene Harden, Brian Smith, Timothy Biel, Vern White and Connie Augsburger were appointed to the Insurance Committee, with Paul Stevens and Vern White as co-chairpersons. During the course of the year Paul Stevens resigned. His leadership is greatly missed. The Trustees met 7 times during the year.

Areas of Trustee responsibility include financial investments, property and liability insurance, maintenance and repair of properties, zoning issues, the lease or purchase of property, and the sale or lease of property no longer used for Conference purposes. We care for 14 Conference-owned properties and properties under our responsibility as designated by action of the Annual Conference or Cabinet. (This does not include campgrounds, which are under responsibility of the Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries.) Bequests of property to the Conference are monitored and best use identified. Individual trustees take responsibility for annual inspection of each property, bringing repair/upgrade requests to the full Board, and seeing that work is properly done.

Among decisions/actions taken during 2014:

- Held a day-long workshop on Realistic Building Practices for Cabinet, local church trustees, members of District Church Location and Building Committees, District Strategy Teams, and Conference Congregational Development/redevelopment Committee; information was given by an architect, risk manager, and contractor, as well as presentations on debt management and building challenges faced.
- Expanded number of churches covered in our group property insurance plan from 261 in January to 285 at end of the year. All Conference-owned properties are in this group plan.
- Approved Outdoor and Retreat Ministries' request to borrow \$30,000 interest free from the Seager Fund; purpose was to make two Reynoldswood cabins accessible.
- Sold the former Rockford:Bethany church building for \$168,000, financing the loan ourselves, and designating sale proceeds to the Closed Church Fund.
- Met with representatives of the Chicago District Campground Association to discuss its plans and relationship with the Annual Conference; also confirmed through a title search that property is not owned by the Northern Illinois Conference.
- Continued to work with St. James UMC of Chicago plus numerous conference leaders in an ongoing effort to get into a position of being able to eventually sell the St. James property.

We continue to monitor and approve distribution of proceeds of several invested funds for the benefit of NIC programs. In 2014, the following allocations were made:

- Board of Outdoor and Retreat Ministries received \$78,180.22 from the Seager Fund.
- Campus ministry in the Chicago Southern District received \$34,404.50 from the Blackstone fund.
- Northern Illinois University campus ministry received \$34,404.50 from the DeKalb Campus Fund.
- 13 Local church ministries from the Rockford and DeKalb Districts received a total of \$23,500 from the Keagy Fund.

Robert G. Burkhart, President of NIC Board of Trustees

Trustees: Connie Augsburger, Timothy Biel Sr., Tari Crema, Harlene Harden, Harry Nicol, Mike Peters, Larry Pickens, Martha Rudy, Brian Smith, and Vern White.

400.07 BOARD OF PENSIONS

General Statement

Your Conference Board of Pensions is responsible for the general supervision of all pension and benefit programs adopted by the Annual Conference for clergy members of the conference and for all employees of local churches, boards, and agencies of the Annual Conference. It recommends and reports to the Annual Conference such changes in the pension programs as may be proposed from time to time by the General Board of

Pensions and Health Benefits of The United Methodist Church (“General Board”) or adopted or recommended by the General Conference. It also recommends and reports to the Annual Conferences changes in the health care and other benefit programs administered by the Conference Board of Pensions.

Pensions

Clergy members with service years prior to January 1, 1982 (Pre-82) are provided with pensions administered by the General Board. This “defined benefit” pension is based on the service years to the Annual Conference (NIC) up to December 31, 1981. As of our most recent actuarial report of 2012, our Pre-82 pension liability is underfunded. In light of this, the Conference Board of Pensions has a funding plan as mandated by 2012 General Conference. This plan will fully fund the Pre-82 by 2021.

In 1980, the General Conference voted to have a “defined contribution” plan for active clergy effective January 1, 1982. This program is called the Ministerial Pension Plan (MPP) and each salary paying unit pays the annual contribution on behalf of each clergy person. This contribution is based on the percent of compensation set by the Annual Conference and is deposited to each clergy person’s individual account at the General Board.

In 2004, General Conference voted to end the MPP as of December 31, 2006. No more additions to individual accounts were permitted after this date. The MPP was replaced with a new pension program – The Clergy Retirement Security Program (CRSP). This program began January 1, 2007. It consists of two core benefit programs: a defined benefit core, and a defined contribution core.

CRSP payments are paid by each salary-paying unit on behalf of each clergy person. These payments include the defined contribution amount, the actuarial payment for the defined benefit amount, and a payment to the new reserve for estimated future unfunded retiree benefit liabilities. The future annual cost will fluctuate with market returns.

Another change involves PIP, the personal investment plan which allowed the clergy or lay employees to make additional investments for their retirement. The PIP program has been discontinued and replaced by UMPIP. This change will be transparent to the participant, as UMPIP will work in substantially the same way as the PIP. Contributions will be made to the participant’s individual account. Individuals may still make additional voluntary before-tax contributions, subject to the maximum as determined by the IRS.

In 2012, General Conference voted to amend CRSP and MPP. The CRSP Defined Benefit component has been decreased from 1.25% of DAC per year of service to 1.00% of DAC per year of service effective January 1, 2014. Under the CRSP DC plan, the Annual Conference will contribute 2% of clergy plan compensation and, in addition, will match the amount of clergy contributions to the UMCPPI up to 1% of compensation. This change is effective January 1, 2014. Additionally, General Conference made quarter-time appointments ineligible for CRSP. The 2013 Northern Illinois Annual Conference voted to provide CRSP to at least half-time clergy.

MPP becomes a defined benefit (annuity) at retirement. Beginning January 1, 2014, exactly 65% of the account balance must be converted to an annuity. Clergy must roll over 35% to UMPIP, an IRA or take it as a cash distribution which is subject to taxes.

Medical Insurance

Historical Overview of Our Health Insurance Program

In January 2014, Healthflex (General Board's Plan) uses Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois as the Health Insurance provider PPO for actives, Catamaran for the pharmacy program, and United Behavioral Health for the Employee Assistance Program. In addition, the General Board has provided wrap around services to improve clergy health, ie Virgin Pulse, Center for Health, Blueprint for Wellness, etc. As a result of these programs, our claims have not exceeded our funding for the past two years. Furthermore, health care premiums have been flat for the past two years.

As a means to learn how the Affordable Care Act impacts our support of clergy health, we initiate a pilot project to enable the local church to experience with the health care exchange coverage options and the potential savings to the participating local church. Participation in the pilot program requires the agreement of the conference board of pensions, the Cabinet, and the local church SPRC. Participation begins and can be renewed each appointment year.

Starting July 1, 2014 the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits can release a clergy person from mandatory participation in Healthflex at its discretion when:

- a. The clergy person is eligible for health coverage through TRICARE, or Champus.
- b. The clergy is enrolled in coverage from a former employer or as a dependent on a spouse's employer-provided coverage.
- c. They serve a church which the Conference Board of Pensions and Health Benefits has excluded from Healthflex participation

In all cases the plan benefit summary of the substitute plan must be reviewed by conference staff or a designate for suitability of coverage and network before committing to the alternative plan. The conference may reject mandatory release if a plan is insufficient in comparison to Healthflex, if the enrollment seems unreliable or susceptible to imminent change, if the premium costs to the family are too high, if participation in the program would eliminate qualifying for a subsidy, or if, in the NIC Board of Pension and Health's sole opinion the change should not be approved.

The Board of Pensions expresses its gratitude to Lonnie Chafin (Conference Treasurer), Tom Scott (special advisor to the CBOP) and to the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, especially Andy Hendren (Associate General Counsel) for their assistance in resourcing the Board on the ACA.

Health Care Coverage for Retired and Disabled Clergy

The Conference Board of Pensions engages OneExchange to aid retirees aged 65 and above in selection of suitable Medicare supplement coverage and to act as patient advocate when necessary.

Healthcare Special Grants

The Board makes available to the Cabinet funds for special grants for those congregations who are not able to provide 100% of the cost of medical insurance for their clergy. We will continue to work in cooperation with the Cabinet to assist local churches who are in financial need. We are also working with the Cabinet to reduce the number of local churches in jeopardy by defaulting or paying their benefits payments late.

Investments

The NIC holds a restricted fund (“NIC-Post-Retirement Benefits Program”, p.199, *2008 NIC Conference Journal*, Resolution 700.04) on deposit at the General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits to be used for pension, health, disability, and other welfare benefit programs for NIC retired and disabled clergy families. The asset balance in this fund is detailed in a note to the audited financial statements.

Programs for Retirees

Since 1986, this Board has sponsored programs for retired clergy and spouses within the geographic areas of the Annual Conference. The Board sponsored a pre-retirement seminar, *For Your Benefit*, in February 2015 at Sycamore UMC. We recommend all clergy attend this seminar to better understand clergy benefit choices. Additionally, the board sponsored a 2015 retiring class workshop to assist the current retirees navigate retirement.

James F. Stiles, III, Service Award

In 1989 the Board of Pensions established an annual service award in honor of its late chairperson, James F. Stiles, III. A recipient has not been determined at the time of this report.

Financial Report

Our financial report is made as part of the report of the Conference Treasurer and will also be part of the audit to be published in the Conference Journal.

United Methodist Clergy Fund

I would like to thank the United Methodist Clergy Fund for their continuing support for the retirement benefit programs of NIC. The Clergy Fund donated \$1,100,000 in 2014. Without their assistance, it would be extremely difficult to maintain the high level of benefits we offer.

Defined Benefit Liability and Potential Retiree Health Liability

The Board of Pensions has completed a funding plan for this liability and submitted to the General Board for approval.

Conference Benefit Staff

The conference board wishes to express its gratitude to Shirley Burkhart who retired in February after 27 years of dedicated service to the Annual Conference. She will be missed.

The Board welcomes LaMeise Turner as the Conference Benefits Coordinator and Woody Bedell as the Director of Personnel and Benefits.

Closing Statement

We continue our work to provide our plan participants with the most beneficial and cost effective benefits available in the marketplace, and to avoid large fluctuations in costs to churches and other plan sponsors. The Board remains diligent in investigating alternative methods for the provision of benefits. We thank and praise God for mercy and grace and for the faithfulness of the people called United Methodist who continue to make care of their clergy and other servants of the church a priority. With the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, we will together continue in our ability to serve both active and retired clergy and laity of this Annual Conference.

Rev. Joseph A. Johnson, Chair

400.08 2015 Cabinet Historical Report

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Tracy S. Malone, Dean of Cabinet

The Northern Illinois Conference Cabinet is made up of the Bishop, six District Superintendents, Bishop's Assistant, Director of Connectional Ministries and the Director of Congregational Development and Redevelopment. The Cabinet is responsible for the oversight of the spiritual and temporal affairs of the Conference and being accountable for district and conference responsibilities. The Cabinet meets throughout the cycle of the three seasons of their work: appointment making, annual clergy supervision interviews and Church Conferences. The Cabinet continues to work collaboratively and each member brings gifts, graces and skills to their respective roles and responsibilities.

In August of 2014, the Cabinet had its annual retreat led by Bishop Dyck. It was a time of relaxation and renewal in body and spirit. It was also a time for reflection, visioning and rethinking of mission, ministries, policies and priorities. This time set apart made it possible for the Cabinet to strengthen its work together by engaging in an organizational culture exercise where we discovered/rediscovered the diverse/varied perspectives among ourselves that help to shape and create a more cohesive and effective witness.

Some of the highlights of the Cabinet's work this year include, but not limited to, the following: 1). Strengthening the Transitions Workshop that helps to equip and prepare clergy and churches that experience a pastoral change. 2). Strengthening the Cross-Racial/Cross-Cultural Workshop provided for clergy and churches serving in these particular contexts and 3). Offering the Church Assessment Tool (CAT) as a resource providing local churches a way to do an in-depth read on the overall health and vitality of their church. It is our hope to continue to provide relevant resources and trainings to assist in creating a more effective ministry and witness.

Under the leadership of Bishop Dyck, the work of the Cabinet continues to be guided by the vision and question “Who Is My Neighbor? The Cabinet strives to be lead partners with clergy and local churches as we embrace the vision and goals of Harvest 2.0. which include: New Faith Communities, Healthy Discipleship, Vital Congregations and Community Engagement. This is our call! This is our commitment! This is our work!

2015 Pension Appointment Categories And Guidelines

Under the guidelines of the 2008 United Methodist Pension Program Clergy Retirement Security Plan (CRSP), pension credit is accrued based on years of service in quarter increments. In order to determine the appropriate category for all persons serving in an appointment less than full time three factors will be utilized: **employment definition, salary and performance expectations.**

Employment Definition:

Persons who have employment in addition to their appointment or/and full time students cannot be considered full-time in their appointment. Employment that is considered an extension of the ministry (i.e. teaching a class at college, university or seminary) will not be considered outside employment.

2015 Part-Time Category Chart

Conference Average Compensation: \$62,283 (Base plus, housing factor or/and allowances but does not include reimbursable)

Full Time	3/4 th Time	½ Time	1/4 th Time
+\$42,162	\$30,114	\$24,000	\$18,074 or below

This chart will be recalculated annually using the CAC as a guideline.

Performance Expectations:

For all appointments:

- The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2012, ¶ 338 responsibilities and Duties of Elders and Licensed pastors will apply.
- The following expectations should not limit the work of ministry as a function of maintenance, as clergy are to be engaged in recruitment.

1/4th Time:

- Minimum of one day in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in Worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

½ Time:

- Minimum of two days in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

3/4th Time:

- Minimum of three days in administration, leadership development and evangelism
- Minimum of one day in worship preparation, sermon preparation
- Minimum of ½ day in worship leadership
- Pastoral care, teaching ministries and outreach as setting dictates

Implementation:

- Categories of 1/4th, 1/2 and 3/4th time will be used when designating the status of persons under appointment in less than full time situations.
- Part-time clergy, SPRC Chair and Treasurer will sign a document each year verifying the service record of the pastor. In every instance the designation on the Compensation Form governs pension credit.
- The compensation formula and Cabinet expectations will be published each year as part of the Cabinet report in the Northern Illinois Conference Journal.

400.09 OFFICE OF CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

The Office of Connectional Ministries continues to work in cooperation with staff, elected clergy and lay leadership, the Bishop and Cabinet, and the Program Council to coordinate, focus, and guide the mission and ministry of The United Methodist Church Northern Illinois Conference.

The NIC Communications office, under Anne Marie Gerhardt, continues to publish the monthly print *Reporter* with nearly 3,000 subscriptions. The weekly eNews is sent to more than 2,500 email subscribers with an average open rate of 45%.

We also continue to expand our social media presence to share updates, resources, news and photos. The NIC Facebook page has reached nearly 1,200 followers. The Twitter account has more than 1,500 followers and we've posted nearly 2,000 tweets (see separate report for additional information).

Michael Mann, Associate Director of Mission and Advocacy continues to lead the expansion of key ministries. "Plumblin'" an NIC conference-wide youth initiative, that helps to develop principled Christian leaders, in conjunction with the United Methodist Seminar Program in New York is ministry which addresses public issues from a faith perspective. This year we focused on the topic of "Restorative Justice." JFON (Justice For Our Neighbors) Ministry has helped us continue to live out our gospel mandate to welcome the stranger. Numerous immigrants with various status issues have been welcomed with the radical hospitality of the people of The United Methodist Church and legislative advocacy efforts continue to address. Spanish as a Second Language is a new initiative that hopes to reach congregations and individuals throughout our conference connection. This year the Spanish as Second Language curriculum was published and will be utilized throughout the denomination.

The Media Resource Center continues to provide high quality vetted materials to our membership and has increased its ability to resource congregations through training, visioning, consultation, and increased technology; including the development of DVD resources of conference and district events. One hundred and seventy-six churches subscribe to the center which boasts over 4,000 resources in various formats and also provides video projection units and screens to local congregations and our staff.

The NIC continues to chart a new course for future of our camping, outdoor, and retreat ministries under the leadership of Director Jeff Casey working with the Board and Board Chair, Jim Miller. Major renovations have taken place at both properties (Wesley Woods and Reynoldswood) to provide a higher level of service and hospitality.

In addition to working to strengthen existing ministries such as resourcing local training clergy and lay leaders, a five-day spiritual formation academy is scheduled for 2016 and a pilot program has been initiated in several districts. Further, addressing key social issues such as Acts of Repentance toward indigenous people – through listening sessions, mass incarceration, community policing, cultural competency and race relations through conversations at various levels has been a part of our work. In addition, groundwork has been laid for listening sessions to be held in 2015 in order to strengthen Latino/Hispanic ministries in the Northern Illinois Conference.

The NIC, through the office of Connectional Ministries held numerous training events including the annual Laity Convocation, Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century, the School of Evangelism, Safe Sanctuary training and the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration with Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson.

A new Restorative Justice initiative and partnership with the General Board of Church and Society of The United Methodist Church and Healing Communities- a ministry of congregations to the incarcerated and their families) and a Permanent Committee on Restorative and Transformative Justice was established at the 2014 session of annual conference.

The following pages including historical reports and minutes of presentations and changes will highlight other changes that have taken place during 2013-2014.

The development of the Urban Strategy under Bob Biekman who serves as Coordinator of Urban Ministries for the conference continues to expand its efforts in the city of Chicago to build the capacity of our local congregations in partnership with other faith-based and community-based organizations and government institutions. The urban strategy is an initiative launched under the leadership of Bishop Sally Dyck and engages our congregations in the areas of Literacy, Restorative Justice, Community Safety, and Food Security.

The staff continues to be attentively listening and responsive to God's voice as we contemplate our vocational life within and for the NIC and to hear the voices of its members, churches and communities that God might be glorified in our common ministry. The NIC Program Staff include Natarsha Gardner (Administrative Assistant for the Office of Connectional Ministries), Anne Marie Gerhardt (Director of Communications), Susan Gieseler (Director of Media Resources), Jeff Casey (Outdoor and Retreat Ministries Director), Michael Mann (Associate Director of Mission and Advocacy), and Chris Pierson (Director of Connectional Ministries).

400.10 Communications

The NIC Communications office continues to publish the monthly print Reporter with nearly 3,000 subscriptions. The weekly eNews is sent to more than 2,500 email subscribers with an average open rate of 45%.

We also continue to expand our social media presence to share updates, resources, news and photos. The NIC Facebook page has reached nearly 1,200 followers. The Twitter account @umcnic has more than 1,500 followers and we've posted nearly 2,000 tweets.

The goal is to continue to drive people to the conference's mobile-friendly website, www.umcnic.org, which was redesigned and launched February 2014. We are continuing to look for efficient ways to use the website for event registration, forms and other submissions.

NIC communications also helped coordinate several other materials during the year including the 2014 Annual Conference Narrative Budget, 175th anniversary video and the Conference-wide Directory.

Media Resource Center

The Media Resource Center serves the churches of the Northern Illinois Conference, providing educational curriculum materials on a wide variety of subjects. We aim to support people in their journey of Christian faith and service in the name of Jesus Christ.

A mean average of 51 resources were checked out each month. Currently 85 churches are paid subscribers, while 35 other churches use the Media Resource Center paying a per item usage fee.

The collection consists of over 4400 items, including 311 curriculum sets (DVD and VHS), 901 DVDs, 2215 VHS tapes, 10 Banners from the UMW, and 902 books (many of which are part of curriculum sets).

There are 4 LCD projectors available for loan, 2 portable screens, and a video camera, which may be borrowed by trained videographers. The Media Resource Center has participated in the editing and distribution of DVDs from the 2014 Annual Conference

400.11 CONFERENCE BOARD OF LAITY 2014-2015

The Conference Board of Laity is chaired by the Conference Lay Leader, and is comprised of the District Lay Leaders (7 individuals representing the 6 NIC Districts), several at-large members,

the President of UMM, the President of UMW, the Director of Lay Servant Ministries, a clergy representative, and the Director of Connectional Ministries. The Board has various responsibilities, including the planning and implementation of the Laity Session during Annual Conference every year.

The Laity Session of Annual Conference 2014 included a celebration of the 175 anniversary of Annual Conference. The Conference Lay Leader and two others dressed in historical garb from the 1800's. Dan Swinson of the NIC Commission on Archives and History, called the session to order after a trumpet call, just as the original camp meetings began 175 years ago. Thereafter, the Conference Lay Leader welcomed all and introduced the Conference Board of Laity. Dan Swinson then led a recreation of the original camp meeting and led line singing of the beloved hymn, *Amazing Grace*.

After the celebration, there was a transition into the Laity Session Worship Service by singing the modern song, "*Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone*." Holy Communion was served by the members of the Conference Board of Laity.

The Conference Board of Laity will have met six times by the time of Annual Conference 2015. After Annual Conference 2014, we planned and implemented activities for the year, which included:

- Promoting Laity Sunday 2014, with the theme of: "Disciples Called to Action - Engaging Small Groups."
- Implemented a new policy regarding notification of deceased Lay Members to Annual Conference.
- For the first time, conducted training for Local Lay Leaders/Lay Members to Annual Conference at four District Lay Leadership Training Events, in Elgin, Rockford, Chicago Southern and Chicago Northwestern. The trainings were conducted by members of the Conference Board of Laity.
- Planned and implemented the 2015 Laity Convocation.

In continuing with the overall denominational theme of, "Who Is My Neighbor", the 2015 Laity Convocation had the theme of, "Who Is My Neighbor? The Wesley Way Today Can Show You" and it was held at Sycamore UMC. Approximately 260 people attended the 2015 Laity Convocation.

The keynote speaker was Bishop Sally Dyck, and she reflected on how what John Wesley taught and preached and lived is as relevant today as it was in his times - how it's instructive in moving us forward in the mission of our denomination: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. After the keynote presentation, four workshops were offered, led by laity and clergy in partnership:

- **"No Matter the Age, No Matter the Height, They are Precious in His Sight!"** Ministry to youth and children led by Ms. Nura Zaki and Pastor Ayla Samson-Zaki.
- **"WWJWD? (What Would John Wesley Do?)"** Implementing the Wesley Way Today in Your Church, led by Ms. Ellen Feliciano and Rev. Jonathan Dean.

- **“The Beauty of Diversity - The Diversity of Beauty”** Addressing Issues of Cultural Competency in our Churches, led by Rev. Giovanni Arroyo and Rev. Young-Mee Park.
- **“Send Me Lord!”** Focusing on Leadership Development, led Mrs. Elisa Gatz and Rev. Luis Reyes.

The Laity Convocation also included a time of worship, Holy Communion and fellowship, along with display tables from various groups where persons were able to gather resources. After the event, outlines and resources from every workshop were available on-line. Finally, the 2015 winner of the “Award for Most Attendees from a District at the Annual Laity Convocation” was the DeKalb District, and presentation of the award was made to Rev. Young-Mee Park, District Superintendent of the DeKalb District.

The Board of Laity continues to seek to strengthen the connection by encouraging participation at the Conference level from all the Districts. We will also be putting a greater emphasis on youth and young adult participation at all events.

Arnold Rivera
 Conference Lay Leader
 Chair - Conference Board of Laity

400.12 Conference Congregational Development and Redevelopment Team - Historical Report 2014

Introduction

Since launching Harvest 2.0, we have focused our vision on Christ’s commission to *go and make disciples*. We thank God for so many persons committed to this vision. With the leadership of Bishop Sally Dyck and our District Superintendents, we press ever onward with a two-pronged approach.

Congregational Development:

District Strategy Teams

District Strategy Teams provide the data that begin the process of selecting sites for New Faith Communities. In collaboration with District Strategy Team leaders, all of whom are members of the Conference Congregational Development and Redevelopment leadership team, we recommend sites to the Cabinet. In 2014, 4 sites were identified for possible projects.

New Faith Community Planters

We offer two venues for new faith community planters: *The Institute for Congregational Development (ICD)* and *The Conference [Hispanic/Latino] Academy for Faith Community Development*. Both programs provide two years of intensive training. The ICD Class, composed of 25 participants will complete their “incubator group” work in June of 2015. The Conference Academy Class of 2015 will recognize 35 participants, mostly laypersons, who have also

completed their two year training program in June, 2015. New two year training programs for ICD and the Conference Academy will begin in August of 2015.

We celebrate that over 1,500 persons worship weekly in our New Faith Communities. On June 1, 2014, 180 people signed up as charter members of Flowing Grace UMC, a new faith community that began more than 5 years ago. Urban Village Church hosted two full-time Church Planting Residents through Path1 in 2014. We also began a project of planting a Filipino New Faith Community in partnership with Edison Park UMC in 2014.

Congregational Redevelopment:

Vital Leaders Leading Vital Churches

The Institute for Congregational Development is not only for new faith community planters, but for all church leaders. The ICD class focuses on training and empowering high capacity leaders who can effectively engage the community, begin exciting new ministries, and raise the level of vitality in our congregations.

Healthy Discipleship

We offer several options for healthy discipleship in the congregational redevelopment component of our work:

“Turnaround Church – How to Reach New People”: In April 2014, church teams learned tools and ideas for reaching new people from consultant Jim Griffith. More than 40 persons participated.

“Vitality for the 21st Century Church”: In November 2014, church teams learned tools and ideas for revitalizing their ministries from Pastor Olu Brown of Impact UMC in Atlanta. More than 40 persons participated.

SBC21 (Strengthening the Black Church for the 21st Century): Our annual conference has a partnership with the SBC21 National Plan and we look forward to the fruitful ministry that will emerge from this partnership. In May 2014, we held our second annual event.

Conclusion

We rejoice that God is using lay and clergy across our annual conference to love our neighbors through vital churches and new faith communities. This Harvest 2.0 movement is empowering a new generation of leaders hungry to be engaged in the commission of *making disciples* for Christ. It is an honor to serve God and our neighbors through the Northern Illinois Conference!

Rev. Dr. Cecelia S. Harris
Chair, Congregational Development and Redevelopment

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

400.13 NIC United Methodist Foundation

After faithfully serving over eleven years Rev Harry Nicol retired on October 1, 2014 as the President of the United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference, Inc. On September 1, the

Rev. John Peterson CFP®, CASL® began his duties as the new president after serving for seventeen years as the vice president of the Florida United Methodist Foundation, Inc.

The Board of Directors of the United Methodist Foundation of the Northern Illinois Conference, Inc. welcomed six new members during the 2014 Annual meeting. They are: Veronica Davenport of

Sherman UMC Evanston, Sharon Eubanks-Pope of St Marks UMC Chicago, Denny Hackett of First UMC Morris, Rev Thomas Rawlinson of New Hope UMC Chicago, Arnold Uhlig of First UMC Palatine, and John Vanderheyden of Roscoe UMC

The board also said farewell to four members: Bob Clair, Nancy Harbottle, Rev Jon McCoy, and John Peschier. We thank them for their service and outstanding contribution to this ministry.

The officers of the Board for the year 2014-2015 are:

Chairperson- Linnea Kooistra of Harvard UMC
Vice Chair- Jeff Wallem of Christ UMC Rockford
Recording Secretary- Chris Walters of Plainfield UMC
Treasurer- Ergeline Calimlim of First UMC Chicago

Other members of the Executive committee are: Frank Appleby of Trinity UMC Wilmette, Mike Lahti of Faith UMC Orland Park, Art Muir of Northshore UMC Glencoe, Ed Page of St. Marks UMC Chicago, Rev Debbie Percell of First UMC Morris, and Lynette Rice of Grace UMC Lake Bluff.

The staff members of the Foundation are:

Rev John D Peterson CFP®, CASL®, President
Janet Boryk, Director of Planned Giving
Carolyn J. Cook, Executive Assistant
Joann Turner, Bookkeeper

The Foundation maintains three investment funds designed for long term investments. They are: Conservative Fund, Moderate Fund, and Aggressive Fund. Each of these options is broadly diversified with domestic and international equities, domestic and global bonds, Treasury Inflation Protected Securities, and Natural Resources.

The Foundation retains Mercer as its investment consultant. The investment opportunities available through the Foundation offer churches and agencies of the conference professionally managed, well diversified accounts, which are invested according to the guidelines for socially responsible investing of the United Methodist Book of Discipline. The investment policies of the

Foundation provide for a disciplined approach which can meet a variety of investment objectives.

The chart below summarizes the 2014 investment performance:

United Methodist Foundation Portfolio				
	Market Value	2014 Return	Since Inception Annual Return	Inception Date
Conservative	\$9,859,513.27	4.71%	5.83%	Jun-08
Moderate	\$37,523,843.30	4.05%	4.98%	Jun-08
Aggressive	\$9,865,470.44	3.44%	4.10%	Jun-08

The Foundation maintains a grant program. A total of \$24,650 was awarded to 19 ministries for 2015.

In August the Foundation sponsored the annual stewardship conference at Barrington UMC featuring Scott McKenzie, Ph.D, and Kristine Miller, M.B.A., CFRE from Horizons Stewardship Company. More than 325 participated in this conference.

The annual audit of the Foundations accounts for 2013 was approved. The 2014 audit was prepared by Odell Hicks and Associates of Chicago. We expect it to be accepted by the Board in September 2015.

The Foundation continues its work of leading workshops, preaching, teaching, and providing consultation to churches, individuals, and agencies of the Northern Illinois Conference. The Foundation's mission is to multiply resources for ministry within the conference.

Rev. John D. Peterson CFP®, CASL®

400.14 CLERGY FUND, UNITED METHODIST

The United Methodist Clergy Fund is an independent, Illinois, not-for-profit, corporation. It is organized to "procure, invest, and manage money and property, the income from which shall go toward the support of superannuated ministers, and the widows and dependent children of deceased members." The fund is related to the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church because its bylaws limit its contributions to this conference.

Founded on October 27, 1885, it was one of the first funds established to provide income for retired pastors and their dependents. In fact, it was one of the first funds in the United States to provide such assistance, and was a forerunner to the concept of pension funds. In existence for 130 years, The Clergy Fund intends to continue providing significant levels of support for retirees of the Northern Illinois Conference.

On December 31, 2013 the fund totaled \$25,558,392. Through the stewardship of its seven member Board of Directors, and the investment management team at Wespath, the fund grew to \$25,956,740 at the end of 2014. During 2014, it contributed \$1,200,000 to the Northern Illinois Conference for the benefit of its retirees. This contribution was \$100,000 more than the board budgeted in the beginning of the year. The growth of \$398,348 plus the contribution of \$1,200,000 amounts to a 6.2% growth. This growth is in part due to our investment managers, Wespath, a division of the United Methodist General Board of Pensions and Health Benefits, while complying with the Social Principles investment policies of The United Methodist Church.

The contribution significantly funds the health benefits that the retirees receive from the conference. Because of this contribution, the Northern Illinois Conference, is able to be one of the few conferences, if not the only conference, to continue providing health benefits to its retirees, and is among the last of the conferences to continue this practice.

The Clergy Fund Board of Directors is comprised of five lay members and two clergy members. These persons are nominated and elected by the current board of directors. They serve for terms of four years. Seven retired honorary Directors, the Chair of the Conference Board of Pensions, and the Conference Treasurer are regularly invited to attend the quarterly meetings of the Board.

The Clergy Fund has made annual gifts of about \$1 million toward retiree health insurance and retiree benefits of the Conference for more than 20 years. A policy of using a percentage of the three-year rolling average of the year-end fund value, guides the Board's annual contribution to the Board of Pensions. The Board has suggested to the Board of Pensions that they budget a contribution of \$1,200,000 from the fund for 2015.

The amount of this gift each year is not shown separately in the Conference budget. Rather, it is netted against health insurance costs in the Board of Pensions budget. Without this contribution, the Conference's annual revenue budget of nearly \$7 million would have to be increased by approximately 14%.

The Fund is a 501(c)(3) registered charitable organization, and welcomes contributions and bequests. The Conference office or I can provide information as to the process of making a contribution to the Fund and joining in our mission.

--James Loeppert, United Methodist Clergy Fund, President

March 31, 2015

400.15 United Methodist Women, NIC Journal Report for 2014

United Methodist Women of Northern Illinois Conference spent the year in a myriad of activities whether related to spiritual growth, learning and acting upon social concerns and, in general, living out our purpose.

The highlight for many was attending Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky and meeting with 8,000 like-minded women who were called to make a difference in our neighborhoods, cities, states and throughout the world. Many of us were inspired to action when attending Assembly. The Ubuntu Day moved us to action. The march to Baxter Square Park was a way of raising awareness about economic injustices that exist. Hillary Clinton embraced the idea of faith in action as fostered by her own Methodist mother. Even the collection of over 5,000 prayer shawls demonstrated action of women who worked prior to Assembly. Music by talented women and skits by creative actors inspired all of us. Two women (Christina M. Meyer and Joy de Leon Hayag) from our conference were commissioned as deaconesses. As exhilarating as Assembly can be and was, we returned to our own communities where we put into action that faith, hope and love.

Putting faith, hope and love into action takes on many forms. We participated in our Silent Vigil in Chicago against human trafficking. We traveled to Springfield to lobby our elected officials about issues of which we care. We participated in fundraising to help support the missions of our units which touched the lives of women, children and youth. That may have looked like a scholarship to camp; a scholarship to Mission U so that we were informed of issues in our world; participation in book groups by reading from our Reading Program and sharing what was learned; providing lunches for students over the weekend, supporting women and families with funeral dinners, thrift stores, and food pantries; as well as giving money to our national organization as it reached far beyond our individual possibilities. Our pledge was met.

United Methodist Women celebrated too. New units were formed at local churches. Dinners were served and shared across the conference whether it was at NIC Annual Conference or Mother-Daughter banquets. Food did play a role in radical hospitality and a shared table was one more way to bring faith, hope and love into action.

Dottie Priddy,
NIC UMW President

400.16 United Methodist Men's Annual Report for 2014

President Steve Nailor



UNITED METHODIST MEN

NORTHERN ILLINOIS CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

"Be Ye Doers of the Word and not Hearers Only"

2014 was a great year for NICUMM, as they have reached out in mission and helped others to know and grow in Christ. The Northern Illinois Conference United Methodist men continue to develop Executive Committees in each District. Our website is back up and running. The Conference is working materials for our endowment fund with the foundation. This will generate more funding for mission work. Our Spiritual Congress, Upper Room Prayer Ministry and our mission efforts continue to be focal points for our men. By encouraging men to become involved and become leaders in our churches, we hope to equip men, who have a heart for ministry, to develop disciples for Jesus Christ. Greg Arnold, from Live Bold Ministries was our guest speaker at Spiritual Congress. Disciple Bible Outreach Ministries continues to be a focal point for both Illinois Great River Conference and our Northern Illinois Conference UMM.

District Activities are reaching men for Christ. Some of our 2014 highlights common in all districts are:

- Reviewed and continue the 2013-2017 plan of work for the Conference UMM
- Develop materials for our Endowment Fund for Conference UMM
- Held the 54rd Spiritual Congress at Williams Bay Wisconsin in September
- EMS/Legacy Builders & Charters, was a main emphasis to invite men to become involved in Men's work
- Held District Advent and Lenten Services
- Meals for Millions / Society of St. Andrews, continues to a major Mission Program
- Prayer Ministry provided support to the Upper Room (Prayer Line \$1000)
- Scouting Ministries Programs
- "Imagine No More Malaria" was our Annual Meeting theme (\$4,000 presented to Bishop at Annual Conference
- District Presidents either established or updated their Constitution/By-Laws

Chicago Northwestern District:

- o Held 7 events to strengthen our UMM ministry
- o UMM & UMW provided leadership through service @ the NUCUMC Urban Summit
- o Implemented The Map program by David Murrow
- o Held Prayer Line work shops and now have 2 Prayer Line Ministries in NWD
- o Established training session at our Connectional Table for the Men of the district

Chicago Southern District:

- New District Officers elected and installed
- Continued Monday night bible study for the 26th year
- Continue to work with the UMW on a Domestic Violence workshop
- Focused on mission support for MFM, HIV-Aids and Hunger Relief
- Hosted Annual Awards Banquet recognizing Donald Bradley, Sr. Samuel Graham, Robert Mays, Anne Genter
- Held the 25th Annual United Methodist Men's District Musical

Aurora District:

- Concentrated on Men's ministries to revitalize our churches
- Lenten Breakfast @ Wesley UMC, Missions was the emphasis
- Advent Breakfast @ Wheatland Salem
- Continued to establish our District Executive Committee
- "No Man Left Behind", was our district focus this year
- Men's Ministry Specialist, we have two men working on their certificates

Elgin District:

- Supported several Mission projects and contributed \$4,100 to them
- Hosted Upper Room Prayer Line
- Continued to strengthen the Executive Team
- Continues to promote training for the various Men's Units

DeKalb District:

- Elected new Officers and appointees to the Executive Committee
- Created ministry entry points for men
- Aligned to mission and ministry of the local church
- Participated in potato drops and distribution
- Reynoldswood, UMM continues to support and maintain the camp

Rockford District:

- Hosted 6th Annual Harmony for Hunger Concert and raised \$15,500 for local food pantries and Meals for Millions, this event has raised more than \$63,000 in the six (6) concerts
- UMM Men hosted a Rockford River Hawks Baseball Game and presented the Hunger Concert checks to the various food pantries.

400.17 Commission on Archives and History

Membership

Rev. Dr. Charles Insun Yoon continues to serve as the chairperson with Mrs. Marilyn Steenwyk, lay member serving as secretary, Mrs. Linda Priest, lay member of Roselle UMC, Rev. Paul Judd, Sterling First and Trinity UMCs, Mr. Glenn Palmer, lay member of Court Street UMC, Rockford, and Rev. Keck Mowry, Marengo UMC. The ex-officio members are Rev. Dr. Richard Wang, a former chairperson, relating to the former Norwegian-Danish conference, Rev. Dr.

Carol Noren, relating to the Swedish conferences, the Rev. Dr. Dan Swinson as Conference Historian, Mrs. Bettie Lusk as a member of the General Commission on Archives and History, Mr. Donald Lusk, relating to the African American United Methodist Heritage Center and Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Director of the United Library at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary (GETS).

Meetings

The Commission met on August 16 at GETS in Evanston, the site of the Northern IL Conference (NIC) Archives, October 18 at Cherry Valley UMC, Cherry Valley, January 11 at Bethany of Fox Valley UMC in Aurora, March 21 at St. Mark UMC in Chicago, and April 25 at Trinity UMC, Mt. Prospect. The Commission discussed its display during the Annual Conference, the Commission's website (<https://sites.google.com/site/umcniccah/home>), the NIC Archives update, the listing of closed & merged churches and disposition of records, the listing of persons who served the CAH & the Historical Society, Kendall College (Swedish heritage), and hosting the joint meetings of the General Commission on Archives and History (GCAH), North Central Jurisdiction (NCJ) CAH Convocation, and the Historical Society of the United Methodist Church in July 2015. During the NIC Annual conference (2014) the Commission displayed boards on the 175-year Timeline of Northern IL Conference, the Lexington Conference, and Evangelical United Brethren Church heritage, celebrating NIC's 175th Session.

On behalf of the NIC CAH the Rev. Dr. Charles Yoon and the Rev. Dr. Dan Swinson attended NCJ Commission on Archives and History Convocation at St. Augustine Retreat Center, Petoskey, MI. on July 20-23, 2014, hosted by West Michigan and Detroit Conferences.

NIC Archives Update

For the past year (2014) there has been a lot of improvement in the NIC Archives. GETS and NIC came to a revised agreement about leasing the storage space for the NIC archival collections from Garrett. On behalf of NIC and GETS, both Mr. Lonnie Chafin, the NIC treasurer, and Mr. Dale McClain, Garrett CFO, signed the agreement, and it has been in effect since January 2014. Now NIC Archives has 336 shelves available for the storage (196 existing shelves plus 140 more shelves added). With the hiring of Ms. Julie Fairchild, a part-time archivist, over the summer, the NIC Archives has been much upgraded. She processed the loose materials on the shelves, moved books and journals to one designated section (Shelf V), updated the existing collection list, and made it available electronically. She used all the supplies purchased to enhance the NIC collection. A copy of the NIC collection inventory list is now available at the NIC Archives located in the United Library at GETS. This tremendous work of the NIC Archives update was possible by the leadership of Dr. Jaeyeon Lucy Chung, Director of the United Library at GETS. Dr. Chung has also been a helpful resource person for historical inquiries and referred them to the commission members as needed.

Hosting 2015 Historical Convocation

The NIC Commission will host the Eighth Historical Convocation from Monday, July 20 – Thursday, July 23, 2015 at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, Evanston, Illinois. This convocation is the joint meeting of the General Commission on Archives and History, The Historical Society of The United Methodist Church, the North Central Jurisdiction Commission on Archives and History, and the Commission on Archives and History of The Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church. The theme of the convocation will be "Diversity:

It's Complicated." United Methodism has always been diverse, and has had a complicated relationship with that diversity. This year's convocation will highlight and celebrate "diversity" through several lectures from different perspectives and heritages, programs, awards (ministry of memory, Saddlebag Selection by HSUMC), banquet, and historical tour along with the business meetings. During the Tour Day the participants will visit the Frances Willard House and Museum in Evanston, several sites significant to United Methodist history on the north side of Chicago, First United Methodist Church (the Chicago Temple), the new National Park Service Pullman Neighborhood location (including Greenstone United Methodist Church), and St. Mark United Methodist Church (formerly of the Lexington Conference, Central Jurisdiction).

While the Commission will continue to strive for better coverage and accessibility (e.g. digitization) of the NIC Archives and to advocate the importance of record-keeping through conference or district wide workshops or the Commission website (<https://sites.google.com/site/umcniccah/home>), we urge all churches to observe the disciplinary requirement of retaining and regularly maintaining their own local church records of membership (including receptions, baptisms, marriages, funerals) and history with special care for the quarterly conference records. Each church in NIC is the custodian of its unique history as integral to our connection and church historians in each charge are vital to our ministry of memory.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Charles Insun Yoon
Chair of the Commission on Archives and History

400.18 Fellowship of Asian American United Methodists of the Northern Illinois Conference -- Historical Report 2014

The Fellowship of Asian Americans (FAA) in the Northern Illinois Conference of The United Methodist Church has a rich history to provide voice, presence and witness for the Asian United Methodists churches & member. We are Korean, Japanese, Filipino, Chinese, Pakistani, Indian, Vietnamese and Thai; we speak different languages and have a great wealth of diverse cultural histories. We are part of churches that open their doors to people of different backgrounds. We are committed to supporting our churches through scholarships, innovative programs and mission driven initiatives.

The FAA of Northern Illinois was formally organized in 1976 with Kiyoo Fujiu as the first Chairperson and with the original Steering Committee members - Victor Fujiu, Leo Constantino, Dorothy Kaneko, Mas Yamasaki, Kiyoo Yashimura, Eun Chol Cho, Paul Chang, and Steve Mang. Subsequent chairpersons of the Fellowship were Victor Jujiu(1980-84), Eun Chol Cho (1984-88), and Leo Constantino (1988-90), Sungja Lee Moon, David Jamir, Romir R. Esguerra, Ernest Singh and Kye Ile Hong, and now Timothy Rathod.

2014-15 Chair- Timothy Rathod. Vice Chair – Noah Panlilio, Secretary – Rosa Lee, Treasurer – Avani Christian, Finance Officer – Victor O. Melad Jr, Kim, Scholarship Officer – Kye Ile Hong, Missions Officer – Kelly Van Provide spiritual guidance and shepherding to the Ministry Team and members in general.

The churches within the FAA umbrella continue innovative ideas to promote evangelism and church development. In 2014, we provided support for the following organizations/programs: Asian Center in Garrett Evangelical Theological Seminary, Edison Park UMC for Youth ministry, Filipino Am.UMC Christmas Institute, Emmanuel UMC for retreat & Christmas Program, First KUMC Cross-cultural Ministry Retreat, IndoPak UMC Annual outreach program, Jesus-Love UMC for UIC worship; Journey Comm. Church for Intensive lay training; Korean Central UMC for Culture School; KUMC of SS Young adult's group; Salem KUMC for music school ; Sam Mool UMC for retreat & Seminar, St. John UMC for youth Empowerment; Vision KUMC for Youth retreat; Yung Moon UMC for Culture School; and we also provided scholarships for the Seminary Students.

Year 2014 Asian American gave an opportunity to members of the NIC to participate in the Christmas Celebration called “Asian Flavor”. We are grateful to Bishop Sally Dyck who graciously gave message and Cabinet for being present in this celebration. We had celebration of the Asian American programs and more information was given on different ministries that are geared towards Asian American children, Youths and Adults.

The FAA has also engaged in fellowship and activities to grow mentally and spiritually. For example, to celebrate Dr Martin Luther King Jr. Day, FAA members attended conference program, during Asian fellowship luncheon most of all Asian Churches and clergies and representatives give their report with great joy. God is using us in the NIC in an amazing way. Regularly FAA members have fellowship and gathering for prayer and support.

We give thanks to the NIC for its continuing support of the Fellowship of Asian Americans, and we look forward to another exciting year.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Timothy Rathod, Chair
NIC-FAA 2014-15

400.19 CHICAGO BLACK METHODISTS FOR CHURCH RENEWAL, INC.

2014 HISTORICAL REPORT

The efforts of Chicago Black Methodists for Church Renewal, Inc., continue to be guided by the following goals:

- To be related to the North Central Jurisdiction BMCR and National BMCR by seeking to expose latent and overt forms of racism in all institutions of the United States

- Assist all Black United Methodist Churches in the Northern Illinois Conference by developing and making available strategies, advocacy training and programmatic resources necessary to develop strong Black congregations
- To keep before the Annual Conference crucial issues facing our community in a pluralistic, diverse church and society

We carry out these goals focusing on four programmatic areas:

1. Healthy Families
2. Youth and Young Adults
3. Vital Congregation Development
4. Nominations and Leadership Development

The year, 2014, was a very exciting as shown in the following highlights of programs and events.

Healthy Families: We applied and were approved to become a Community Direct organization with the AIDS Foundation of Chicago in an effort to participate in HIV/AIDS programs, such as the Annual Run/Walk event, and benefit from education, training, grant opportunities, advocacy and resources to share with our churches. Our Bright Lights Team sold Tee Shirts with the theme: Faith = Action and Matthew 5:14 and 16 calling us to be lights in the world. Local churches received information regarding annual Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day in February, National Week of Prayer in March, Third Annual Community Prayer Walks to kick off National HIV Testing Day in June, AIDS Run/Walk in September and World AIDS Day in December. Our Keeping Hope Alive (K.H.A.M.) HIV/AIDS Ministry was revived and we participated in the Global AIDS Fund training held in Denver, Colorado, in October. We are also active with the Southside HIV/AIDS Resource Providers (S.H.A.R.P.) which meets monthly.

HIV/AIDS resources and materials were supplied during the SBC 21 event and BMCR joined with the Clergy & Lay Leadership Summit for HIV/AIDS Community Outreach - X, at McCormick Theological Seminary. The *Sylvia Jo Oglesby Award* was established in honor of the founding of this program 10 years ago.

Healthy Families conducted its first Family Health Conference in November, in partnership with Grace Calvary UMC. The focus was on Spiritual, Mental and Physical Health and led by professionals with expertise in these areas. Other providers included CVS Foundation, Walgreens, ACCESS Community Health Network, Stream of Life Wholistic Health and Lady Alexandra Skin Care Systems. Affordable Care Act - Health Care Options was shared, flu shots offered and a healthy cooking class, taught by a professional chef, provided a nutritious and delicious healthy meal. Other resources included *The Spiritual Pyramid, A Guide to Holy Choices, Recommended by Bishop Sally Dyck*, brochures and information on Alzheimer's Disease and Foster Care. Consultants-On-Call included registered nurses, medical doctors, a pharmacist, psychologist and social work supervisor. The aim of Healthy Families is to work toward getting healthy people to make healthy churches and healthy communities.

Youth and Young Adults: The 41st Annual Maceo D. Pembroke, Sr., Memorial Institute for Ministerial Recruitment and Leadership Development was held August 3-8 at

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary. The week-long program had more than 30 students in attendance. At the closing Friday night commitment service, a number of students responded to calls to pursue the ordained elder, deacon and lay ministry areas. The worship service, led by the students and Institute Dean Rev. Michele Watkins-Branch, was a powerful experience.

Young people from many of our churches and Pembroke Institute students attended the Urban Youth Summit hosted by Bishop Sally Dyck, held at St. Mark UMC in November. A Pembroke Staff Retreat was held in December. The objective was to pull together the deans and counselors for a time of meditation on the Word of God and engage in some group reflection on our sense of call and purpose going into 2015. Insights from the session included naming some core areas of concern for youth and young adults; such as: 1) support for implementing ideas that come from young people; 2) outreach to connect with schools and members of the community; and 3) outdated worship and a more relevant message for young people. The group also conducted a Pembroke Phone-a-thon to recruit youth to attend the forthcoming Mobile Pembroke Lock-In event coming up in January. A strategic planning session will take place early in 2015 to do some futuring and visioning.

Vital Congregation Development: Throughout the year, History and Archives presented a wealth of knowledge and cultural information about the heritage and history of African Americans in the United Methodist Church. Regular updates were given on the African American Methodist Heritage Center and its calendar containing interesting factual data was made available. Chairperson, Donald Lusk and wife, Bettie, not only possess knowledge of our history and heritage, they have lived a lot of it and are, themselves, historical treasures in our midst. They gave impromptu presentations at NCJ BMCR and impressed the conferees with their knowledge and information. It was absolutely amazing.

Our Black United Methodist Pastors (B.U.M.P.) began the year partnering with the Annual Conference in sponsoring the Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration at St. Mark. More than 200 persons were in attendance.

In June, B.U.M.P. conducted a worship service, at St. Mark, celebrating and honoring retired clergy, newly-commissioned clergy and 2014 lay and clergy recipients of the "Rev. Margaret Ann Williams Joy of Serving Award." The theme was "Celebrating God's Servants."

Leadership Development: The 25th Annual Laity Awards Banquet was held on Laity Sunday. BMCR honored 42 lay persons from 21 local churches. More than 450 persons attended the *Silver Jubilee* which was chaired by Mrs. Pearl E. Day and Ms. Carolyn M. McBride. This event had the highest attendance in its 25-year history.

Several of our officers attended the NCJ BMCR Annual Meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, and led workshops on Advocacy and Developing New Leaders for the Black Church. Chicago BMCR once more received the Carolyn E. Johnson Attendance Award at the Banquet because our caucus had the most registrants present.

On November 20, B.U.M.P. held a workshop entitled, "The Pastor On Track - Reclaiming Our True Role," led by Rev. Dr. Emanuel Cleaver, III, based on his best-selling book of the same title. Approximately 15 pastors participated, were inspired and received insights to aid them personally, spiritually and equip them in their ministries. A follow-up session will be held during 2015.

The Chicago BMCR Annual Meeting and Founders' Day Celebration, held at St. Matthew UMC, closed out our 45th year. Deborah Dangerfield was re-elected President and Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr., was elected Vice President/Program Chair. Rev. Oglesby shared his report of programs and events carried out during the year, under a new organizational structure designed to engage more persons, involve more churches and increase and broaden effective partnerships.

A Founders' Day luncheon celebration followed the Annual Meeting. We saluted Mrs. Helen M. Fannings Ammons and Rev. Dr. Kwame John Porter, remaining founders of Chicago BMCR. BMCR also recognized the leadership and contributions of venerable "Living Legends," Corinne Clark (Resurrection UMC), Emily R. Loney (Hartzell Memorial UMC), Eva Miles (Clair Christian UMC), Alyce Teemer (Kelly-Woodlawn UMC) and Rev. Margaret Ann Williams (Maple Park UMC). Dr. Porter shared highlights about the beginning of the organization and the "Legends" provided stories about their history with BMCR. Marc Dean (St. Mark UMC), a part of BMCR from teen years, enlightened everyone on his history in and with BMCR. He shared wonderful insights growing up and receiving the guidance and influence of Mrs. Ammons, who was unable to attend, and other founding leaders whose memories we cherish. Rev. Oglesby, also a participant in BMCR from his teen years, reflected briefly on his history but also on the relationships he shared with the "Legends" present and how they poured into his life growing up in BMCR and the Church. Tokens of appreciation and Certificates were given to each honoree whose faithful service, to the United Methodist Church through BMCR, exceeds more than a combined total of 250 years.

As Chicago BMCR moves forward through its 46th year of existence, the challenges are daunting within the Church and our communities, and call us to stay strong and continue to fight the good fight of faith. We must speak truth to power louder than ever before. We must exemplify the values poured into us by our forebears, those leaders who stood tall and forthright in their quest for and commitment to the achievement of equality. The road ahead appears rocky but we do not fear for we know that "Our Time Under God Is (still) NOW!

Ms. Deborah L. Dangerfield, President

Rev. Dennis M. Oglesby, Jr., Vice President/Program Chair

Mrs. Bettie Lusk, Secretary

400.20 2015 Conference Committee on Native American Ministries Historical Report

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 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, participating in the All Nations Prayer Circle, occasional worship services and leadership meetings, and providing resources for language events. We also supported the bi-monthly senior luncheon and sending Georgina Roy, the Director of The Kateri Center, to continue her training in the Ojibwe language. This year Georgina and some elders from the Kateri community were able to be present for our first conference-wide Acts of Repentance service in the fall at Naperville.

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 provided learning opportunities about Native culture.

Our conference's first **Acts of Repentance** service was held at Community UMC in Naperville and the Midwest SOARRING powwow. We were thankful to have the Bishop's leadership, as well as the planning and coordination of Rev. Michael Mann. In cooperation with the Worship committee, Adrienne was able to use this service in developing an Act of Repentance that took place at this year's annual conference during the opening worship service. This involved liturgy and the opportunity for conference members to participate in further educational opportunities and acts of repentance for the coming year. Thirty members from our various Native partnerships attended the service, as well as an educational lunch open to the annual conference. Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin was NIC's guest preacher for these events.

Conference members also had the opportunity to participate in **listening sessions** held throughout the conference. Five listening sessions were hosted in: Evanston, at G-ETS; in Chicago at the Kateri Center; at Midwest SOARRING Center in Westchester; and at Starved Rock State Park in Ottawa; and at the American Indian Center in Chicago. Each session has featured 3-4 panelists of Native Americans from a variety of tribes. The panelists were asked a series of questions by a moderator and given space to reflect and share their stories.

These sessions were held with three goals: 1) To hear from a variety of Native Americans; 2) To learn about their experiences as Native Americans and how that relates to their theology and understanding of the church, and 3) To make recommendations for further conference action toward the process of repentance. We are thankful for the leadership of Rev. Michael Mann, the primary coordinator and communicator of these sessions. A summary has been shared at annual conference.

With Gratitude,

Rev. Adrienne Trevathan & Rev. Dr. Michelle Oberwise Lacock, Co-Chairs
Committee on Native American Ministries

400.21 **Historical Report 2015: Commission on Religion and Race**

Over the past year, the Commission on Religion and Race of the Northern Illinois Conference has been involved in activities that are intended to promote the goal of the General Commission on Religion and Race as articulated in its vision statement: to advocate for "a fully inclusive Church that is accountable for and proactive in addressing all forms of racial/ethnic oppression, and where all members strive, as disciples of Jesus Christ, to build God's beloved community."

One of our primary responsibilities has been to monitor Annual Conference. Our monitoring reports spaced periodically throughout the conference encouraged attendees to be open to the diversity represented among us at the conference and in our communities. We focused less on numerical statistics and more on the substance of what was being said and by whom, challenging attendees to listen for *all of our neighbors*.

A new focus has emerged from the recognition that the historical method of monitoring alone has not produced the transformation of the church into one that more closely resembles the changing context of the global church. GCORR and the NIC CORR are now striving to help resource congregations and church and conference leaders to increase intercultural competency, institutional equity, and vital conversations that will move us forward in our mission as a global church. In keeping with this goal, members of the Conference CORR team are part of a task-force comprised of representatives of various constituencies, governing and administrative bodies within the conference along with Bishop Dyck. The mission of the task-force is to develop a comprehensive plan for increasing our effectiveness in reaching a diverse population within our annual conference. There will be four areas of focus: churches and clergy experiencing new cross-racial/cross-cultural (CR/CC) appointments, ongoing CR/CC appointments, selected pilot churches located in a community that is different demographically than the majority of the local church, and the ordained ministry process -working with candidates in the process through the Board of Ordained Ministry and the District Committees on Ministry. The process began last January with "listening" sessions facilitated by our team members among clergy and laity who have experienced cross-cultural ministry.

Complementing the work of the task-force, our CORR team will focus on educational programs in the areas of racial justice and reconciliation. We look forward to continuing to work towards the goal of moving the United Methodist Church, and the NIC in particular, into relationships that will reach more people, more diverse people, and younger people to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Adonna Davis Reid, Chair

400.22 Commission on the Status and Role of Women (COSROW) Northern Illinois Conference Report

The members on the Commission are: Rev. Dr. Barbara Morgan, Chair, Ligaya V. Marasigan, Dr. Irma Clark, Kathryn Harr, Laurel Gilbert, Colleen Norman, and Sanetta Jackson. We have been meeting via conference calls, emails and in person to discuss our work.

There was a recent AC COSROW 101 Webinar, of which the entire committee was asked to participate. This Webinar included an overview of the purpose and responsibilities of as well as resources available to Annual Conference Commissions on the Status and Role of Women and related teams. Participants were invited to prepare by considering how their experiences inform answer to three discussion questions: (1) What questions or concerns about women's leadership have we encountered in the last five years? (2) What changes or support have we seen that is working well for women in the church? (3) What do local congregations need (e.g. resources, support, programs, or information) from the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women? What does our COSROW need?

In preparation for 2015 Annual Conference, the Commission on the Status and Role of Women was given the responsibility of meeting to discuss the possibility of modifying and/or inserting language to the Section in the Discipline on Sexual Harassment, along with updating the references to the 2012 Book of Resolutions. We met and made some suggestions, and sent to the Conference Office.

The Committee has been working with and reports with the Commission on Race and Religion at Conference. We are looking forward to Annual Conference this year, where we will be distributing much information from our exhibit table about the Church and where women serve in ministry throughout the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara J. Morgan
Rev. Dr. Barbara Morgan, Chair

400.23 Historical Report - Reconciling Ministries Taskforce

The Reconciling Ministries Taskforce continues to strive to bring about and help the church live into the kin-dom of God, where all God's children are honored and cherished as people of sacred worth, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We are committed to working for justice for all, inside and outside the church walls.

As a taskforce, we strive to resource local congregations in our Conference who are currently Reconciling Congregations, those who are beginning the process of becoming a Reconciling Congregation, and those who simply need help understanding the biblical, historical, and social context for ministering to and with persons who identify as LGBTQi*.

We hold an annual event “Winter Warming” in January to provide inspiration, training, networking, support, and more for congregations and individuals – lay and clergy. During this gathering we experience workshops, a community meal, and passionate worship. In 2015, our theme was “Crossroads: In the Struggle at the Intersections of Oppression,” and it featured a forum with Rev. Dr. Pamela Lightsey and RMN Staff who were a part of protesting the racial profiling and violence in Ferguson, MO, as well as the beautiful dramatic presentation “Say Yes – a poem by Andrea Gibson” performed by Xander Molina, and preaching by Bishop Sally Dyck. We look forward to next year’s event, preparing for General Conference and equipping our Conference and Jurisdiction to be agitators for justice! Bishop Minerva Carcaño will be our preacher. Save the date: 01.16.16!

We celebrate that our Taskforce is continuing to grow, as we have adopted a new leadership structure with work teams: Resources for Reconciling/Renewal, Connectional Witness, Strategy/Legislation, Communications Team, LGBTQi Advocacy in Church/Society, and an Events team. We have also been updating our website: www.radicallyinclusive.org and Facebook page. This year we created a local information guide “An Incomplete Resource Directory” with contact information for resources across the Conference and Connection for LGBTQi organizations, services, centers, films, and printed resources. This document is being constantly added to...so send us material to be incorporated!

We also celebrate that we hosted our first luncheon at the Chicago Temple with clergy serving Reconciling Congregations in the Northern Illinois Conference, and we look forward to making that an annual event as we continue to share ideas, support, liturgies and more. This is a growing movement, and we are challenged to continue to adapt, grow, and serve.

Our Taskforce Leaders are Bonnie Beckonchrist, Rachel Birkhahn-Rommelfanger, Elisa Gatz, Gregory Gross, Carol Hill, Alka Lyall, Lois McCullen-Parr, Luis F. Reyes, Marti Scott, and Charles Straight. If you would like to learn more or get involved, contact us at nireconcilingmethodists@yahoo.com.

We celebrate the Reconciling Churches, Campus Ministries, and Agencies in the Northern Illinois Conference: Agape House @ UIC Chicago, Berry Memorial UMC Chicago, Bethany of Fox Valley Aurora, Broadway UMC Chicago, Chicagoland Methodist Senior Services, Christ UMC Deerfield, Church of the Incarnation Arlington Heights, Church of the Three Crosses Chicago, Edison Park UMC Chicago, Epworth UMC Chicago, Euclid Avenue UMC Oak Park, Faith UMC Genoa, First UMC Arlington Heights, First UMC Chicago Temple, First UMC Downers Grove, First UMC Elmhurst, First UMC Evanston, First UMC LaGrange, First UMC Park Ridge, Glenview UMC Glenview, Grace UMC Lake Bluff, Grace UMC Logan Square Chicago, Hazel Crest Community UMC Hazel Crest, Hemenway UMC Evanston, Holy Covenant UMC Chicago, Irving Park UMC Chicago, Morgan Park UMC Chicago, New Hope UMC Chicago, Northbrook UMC Northbrook, Prince of Peace UMC Elk Grove Village, Ravenswood Fellowship UMC Chicago, Saint Andrew UMC Carol Stream, United Campus Ministries DeKalb, United Church of Rogers Park Chicago, University Christian Ministry Evanston, Urban Village Church Chicago, Wesley UMC Aurora, Wesley UMC Cicero, Wesley UMC Naperville, Winfield UMC Winfield, Winthrop Harbor UMC Winthrop Harbor

**LGBTQ*i* stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex*

400.24 Older Adult Ministries (OAM) Council

*“Do not cast me off in time of old age; do not forsake me when my strength is spent.”
Psalm 71:9*

MISSION: The Council for Older Adult Ministries serves to enrich the lives of older adults through ministries (education, training, and service) in the Northern Illinois Conference. These will be accomplished by

- (1) Equipping local church ministries with training and resources;
- (2) Provide leadership, motivation and support; and
- (3) Present opportunities for life enrichment and spiritual nourishment and growth.

The mission is an acknowledgment that older adults are the fastest growing population in the church. In response, while there is still time, we need to explore ways to ensure their full participation in the life of the church. Accordingly, their contributions to the church and society, past and present, will be recognized and celebrated. *“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is found on the path of righteousness.”* (Proverbs 16:31)

OAM accomplished in 2014 the following: participated in LEAD trainings and other district opportunities; was a significant presence at the 2014 annual conference and the February 2015 Laity Convocation; conducted in May 2014 a seminar on topics and issues related to older adults; pursued other NIC ministries for collaborative programs targeting older adults; strengthened NIC relationship with UM-related care facilities for seniors; and strengthened NIC relationship with the national coordination for older adult ministries. OAM continues to lead the NIC in the observance of the Golden Cross Sunday and the administration of the special offering received.

The Golden Cross Sunday observance always brings the ministry to focus. OAM urges local churches to honor the contributions of older adults in their congregation. The special offering received in the local observances goes to a scholarship fund for workers in NIC-related care giving institutions, who have demonstrated in the workplace a loving care for older adults and who have planned to pursue a broader education or career in that field. In 2014, OAM awarded scholarships to: Ms. Lani Visintine, an administrative assistant at Bethany Methodist Communities in Chicago who is pursuing a degree in nursing for the care of older adults; and Lisa Mayes, admission/discharge and care plan coordinator at Wesley Willows in Rockford who is completing her nursing degree and training to serve in this chosen field.

OAM constantly communicates with advocates and adherents through its Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/nicolderadultministries.

Pong Javier, OAM Council co-chair

400.25 2014 Historical Report of the United Methodist Ministries Credit Union/Land of Lincoln Credit Union

For 74 years the United Methodist Ministries Credit Union and its predecessor bodies have offered important financial services to clergy families, local church employees, United Methodist institutional employees, and finally to United Methodist lay members of churches in Northern Illinois and Illinois Great Rivers annual conferences. Retired pastors remember getting their first auto loans at a reasonable rate through their credit union. Personal loans helped families weather financial emergencies. Credit cards at very helpful interest rates were available with no annual fees.

But the deep recession beginning in 2007, caused by reckless real estate lending by large banks which then were rescued by a federal bailout, brought great distress to smaller banks and credit unions. These were not “bailed out,” but instead were charged large fees to cover unsupportable losses in larger institutions. The Board of Directors of UMMCU, all volunteers who received no pay, began to see those fees undermining the financial health of the credit union. When severe cost controls, staff reductions, and attempts to secure more people to borrow still failed to counterbalance the losses due to those fees, the Board reluctantly began seeking a partner with the deep financial resources to continue offering the kinds of service that UMMCU had historically provided. Fortunately, three credit unions expressed interest in a merger, and the one with the most assets and the broadest array of services, Land of Lincoln Credit Union, was chosen by the Board.

Let me be clear: the United Methodist Ministries Credit Union did not “go out of business,” did not “fail” or “collapse.” UMMCU chose to merge, by a vote of the members on February 15, 2014, precisely to avoid such a situation. No one was ever in danger of losing their money. Instead, we as a Board of Directors succeeded, during a difficult time, in finding a willing partner who could even expand services to members while remaining financially solid. During the last full year of independent operation, UMMCU ended with assets totaling \$3,868,170.21.

The high quality of UMMCU operations is noted in this 2013 comment from the State of Illinois Department of Financial Regulations – Division of Financial Institutions: “The examination focused on review of the credit union’s recordkeeping and internal controls. The Department is pleased to note that no Examiner’s Findings or Document of Resolution items were identified during this abbreviated review.”

This year, 2015, marks the 75th year of a credit union for the Northern Illinois and Illinois Great Rivers conferences. Out of a time of adversity, that credit union resource is stronger and more durable than ever as we join Land of Lincoln Credit Union for expanded service in the years ahead. (Though based in Decatur, Land of Lincoln participates in Shared Banking with credit unions in throughout Illinois, which means that your account in Land of Lincoln can be handled by visiting another credit union near you.)

United Methodist Ministries Board of Directors,
Supervisory Committee Chairperson James Galbreath

400.26 North Central College

A. Introductory Comments

As a comprehensive liberal arts college, related to the United Methodist Church, North Central is committed to effective teaching, small classes, and rigorous standards. The College is committed to an education program for the whole person – body, mind, and spirit – that has been part of the North Central College experience since the Evangelical Association founded the College in 1861.

1. Accountability

During 2014 North Central College did not receive any funds from the conference budget. 292 United Methodist students from the Northern Illinois Conference received \$1,389,261 in institutional scholarship and grant aid. Interest on a gift from the Northern Illinois Conference, given to the college in the 1980s, provided additional \$15,000 assistance. The Northern Illinois Conference provides the compensation for the campus chaplain, Rev. Eric Doolittle.

2. Philosophy and Priorities

North Central College is a community of learners dedicated to preparing students to be informed, involved, principled and productive citizens and leaders over a lifetime.

3. Highlights of 2014 at North Central College

In the fall of 2014, a near record number of first-year students, 580, and 280 transfer students brought the full-time, degree-seeking undergraduate enrollment to 2800. 250 students are enrolled in graduate programs.

B. Highlights in Ministry and Service

1. Campus Life and Spiritual Opportunities

Chaplain Lynn Pries retired after 20 years of ministry to North Central. Rev. Eric Doolittle was chosen to succeed Rev. Pries by a search committee and appointed by Bishop Sally Dyck. Ministry and Service programs include: weekly worship services, Friday evening concerts, Bible studies, retreats, Gospel Choir, and the United Methodist Student Organization. 200 people attended the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast. 350 persons attended the 27th Annual Gospel Extravaganza.

2. Opening the Campus to the World

Service programs included: eleven ongoing projects; and 120 students participated in eight weeklong service trips, including an Appalachian Service Project trip.

3. **Developing Leaders for the Church**

The New Visions Summer Company, composed of five students, directed a weeklong program in two churches and led two weeks of camping programs. The six members of the New Beginnings Team led VBS programs in eight churches. Eight NCC students attended the United Methodist Collegiate Conference, Exploration 2014 in Denver. Tyler Ward '15 was chosen to address the conference with a presentation on "How is it with Your Soul: John Wesley's Transformational Small Group Process." Five students were chosen to make presentations at this event and Mr. Ward was the only undergraduate chosen.

C. **Relationship to the Conference**

The Chaplain leads the Albright-Wesley Society initiative which encourages United Methodist students to attend North College, and raises funds for scholarships and leadership programs for United Methodist students. Nicole Novy '14, a member of the Wilmington UMC enrolled at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

We affirm our affiliation with the Northern Illinois Conference and request continued support with prayer and by sending us your students and financial support.

Troy D. Hammond
President

400.27 **ChildServ NIC Journal Report for 2014**



ChildServ values greatly the prayers, presence, gifts and service of all who join with us to help at-risk children and their families throughout northern Illinois to build, achieve and sustain better lives. Founded as The Methodist Deaconess Orphanage in Lake Bluff, Illinois in 1894, ChildServ's vision and values are rooted in the Biblical mandate to serve the least and the last. We are nourished by the Wesleyan tradition of mission and social justice, and we are blessed daily in our connection with the people of the United Methodist Church. We are grateful for that connection and for their loving and generous support.

Fiscal Year 2014 was again difficult financially for non-profits, especially those serving the hungry and hurting here in Illinois. Public funding was yet again eliminated, reduced or subjected to a deliberate late-pay strategy. Although the State's budget woes did not severely adversely affect the agency's performance in delivering foster care and adoption services, ChildServ did struggle to manage both cash flow and credit as a result of the State's late pay strategy. Further, State budget cuts have begun to jeopardize long-established and successful programs. Late in Fiscal Year 2014, for

example, ChildServ was notified by Chicago Public Schools that ChildServ's very successful and long-running early childhood education program known as HIPPY (Home Instruction for Parents of Pre-School Youngsters, which has for many years served on average 130 at-risk children and their parents in Chicago) would not be funded. Thanks be to God, sustainable sources remain to be secured and we were able to provide for 114 HIPPY clients, but for the time being, HIPPY continues to help at-risk children and their parents prepare for successful starts in school.

In addition to the successful funding of HIPPY, there were many other reasons to celebrate. Among the 2,582 clients we served, those ChildServ is especially proud to highlight are:

- 96% of children in ChildServ's Healthy Fit program were up-to-date on immunizations. 91% of Healthy Fit clients showed improvement in nutritional knowledge by pre- and post testing. Healthy Fit reached 66 homes.
- 81% of parents in Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) completed their Daily HIPPY Activity Packet with their child. HIPPY reached 63 children and 60 parents.
- ChildServ's Military Programs staff delivered 23 military competency trainings, serving multiple social service agencies in Chicagoland. We also sponsored an educational event, *Soul Repair: Recovering from Moral Injury After War*, July 5 at the Barrington UMC, with 80 attendees.
- 90% of mothers in ChildServ's Teen Mom program maintained custody of their own child. 90% also attended monthly group meetings. There were 17 participating Teen Moms for 2014.
- Among ChildServ's 33 Foster Care Providers, 179 children and youth were placed within our Provider's foster homes.
- 82% of youth in ChildServ's Group Homes program participated in a life skill session at least six times during the quarter.

For all this and more we give thanks to God and to the people of the United Methodist Church. Hallelujah!
James C. Jones, President/CEO

400.28 BETHANY METHODIST COMMUNITIES

MISSION AND HERITAGE

Celebrating 125 years of ministry with the elderly and other vulnerable adults, Bethany Methodist Communities (BMC) operates multiple health and residential sites and programs in the Chicago area. Its mission is to serve the physical, social and spiritual well-being of its neighbors the larger community, through medical, residential and ancillary services across the continuum-of-care.

BMC values its Judeo-Christian heritage, believing it is *Called To Care* for those within its Family and beyond. Congregational and community outreach complements on-site programming. Both staff and sites exceed licensing and accreditation standards.

RAINBOW COVENANT PROJECTS: The **Good Samaritan Program** provides medical care, housing, social services and spiritual nurture for adults who are indigent, abused and neglected, with a particular ministry to needy seniors.

MINISTRY WITH CONGREGATIONS: Bethany Methodist is blessed by its relationships with the NIC and congregations. Clergy and members are invited to contact BMC with questions about local resources; for referrals within the local community; to arrange for speakers on aging, caregiving and general health topics; and to plan mutual ministry projects.

SITES AND SERVICES

Bethany Retirement Community **4950 N. Ashland, Chicago**

The Community offers independent apartment living with twenty-four-hour nursing, security, social and spiritual activities, housekeeping, and transportation. Supportive Living Services are available for residents needing help with such daily functions as dressing, bathing and medication management, while those with cognitive challenges may participate in Savvy Circle, a day program that encourages maximum independence through meaningful activities and fellowship. Many residents opt to use the primary medical care and inpatient services of physicians and other clinicians at Methodist Hospital, which is located under the same roof.

Methodist Hospital of Chicago **5025 N. Paulina, Chicago**

Methodist Hospital, which consistently receives highly-ranked accreditation, offers comprehensive medical-surgical and intensive care, clinical oncology, adult mental health, hospice, and programs for persons with developmental disabilities. A state-of-the-art ambulatory center and emergency department provide outpatient and urgent care around-the-clock. Board-certified physicians, dentists and ophthalmologists maintain offices on-site for outpatient visits.

Chestnut Square Senior Living Community **2601 Chestnut, Glenview**

Located on the site of the former Glenview Naval Air Station - now The Glen - Chestnut Square offers active older adults gracious apartment living near shopping, a senior center, fine restaurants, and theaters. Social, health and spiritual programs are complemented by gourmet dining, cultural and educational events, as well as a library, gardens, fitness center, and transportation.

In-apartment caregiver services are available if needed.

Partners In Home Healthcare **2601 Chestnut, Glenview**

Licensed and Medicare-certified home health agency provides nurses, caregivers and

companions to assist adults of all ages during periods of special need following surgery, falls or life-changes related to aging. Flexible scheduling complements BMC's high standards of quality and compassion.

Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Dahl
President/Chief Executive Officer
773-989-1354

400.29 Wesley Willows

As we finished Fiscal Year 2014, we were amazed by all that was accomplished. We had three extraordinary occurrences. First, in February, we acquired Peterson Meadows from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. That addition added 134 independent living units and 34 beautifully groomed acres, located near Rockford's East State Street businesses, churches and community attractions. It also means that Wesley Willows is serving over 725 seniors on a daily basis. Second, in March, we refinanced our debt and secured additional funds at the lowest interest rate of which we have ever borrowed money. With that successful refinance we experienced our third extraordinary event, the ability to start construction of Phase III of Willows Suites, adding 36 residential independent living apartments, more space in our Town Center, including 100 new seats in the Bistro, a Club Room, and a Fitness Workout Center. The completion of the Suites is scheduled for July, 2015 and the Town Center, September, 2015.

2014 was a year of renewing, reinventing, and creating partnerships. In the Fall of 2013, Board member Dr. Linda Chang, was instrumental in re-establishing a program with the University Of Illinois College Of Medicine that was first started 20 years ago. The program pairs residents with second year Medical Students to learn how to get to know a patient. Nearly 100 residents volunteered to work with 59 students.

Wesley Willows also served as a clinical training site for students in Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) programs through partnerships with Rock Valley College, Rockford Public Schools, and Rockford Career College. Students from Rockford University practice developing patient skills with Wesley Willows resident mentors and nursing Students from Northern Illinois University spend time on our campus touring and meeting with the Director of Health Services.

Rockford Health System (RHS) and Wesley Willows began a monthly Active Aging Series of educational topics for our Residents and for Seniors in the Rockford area. An RHS physician or clinical professional facilitates a different health related topic on the first Thursday of each month in our Town Center Ziegler Auditorium.

In 2014, our Good Samaritan Fund provided over \$1.6 million in charitable support to our residents in need. Fundraising was conducted throughout the year in annual appeals, grant requests, and in our Founders Club planned giving program. In

June, we celebrated our 42nd Annual Benefit at the Rock Valley College Starlight Theatre with their production of *The Sound of Music*. The event raised \$73,227 with a net of \$58,740 for the Good Samaritan Fund. In December, 2013, we were awarded a Federal Grant for a 14 passenger bus with a wheelchair lift valued at \$63,000 to be delivered in May, 2015.

Additional important accomplishments include: our CARF/CCAC and EAGLE re-accreditation for 20 straight years, the utilization of our Board of Trustees Community Accountability Policy to track over 60 different community outreach activities & events and \$11,000 in funds given to outside projects, reinvestment in our facilities with the replacement of 50 year old boilers in Willows Arbor, a 20 unit remodel of our Medicare Unit, and reconstruction of Embury Drive and resurfacing of Cokesbury Road.

It was an exciting year for the Wesley Willows organization as we continue to create new opportunities in our community to *Inspire Seniors to Celebrate Life*.

Bill Pratt

President & CEO

400.30 NIC Board of Global Ministries, Historical Report for 2014

The Board of Global Ministries met faithfully in 2014 and continued our quadrennial focus of learning about some of the mission projects and initiatives associated in various ways with the Northern Illinois Conference.

During our meetings in 2014 we had several persons visit us to inform us about particular mission focuses. We were privileged to have our bishop, Sally Dyck, join us to share her vision of mission both within the annual conference and beyond. We also heard from Robert Biekman concerning Urban Ministry and Christina Vosteen concerning Disaster Response. Miestad Sai, a US-2 young adult missionary, visited our meeting and shared with us information about the Generation Transformation program for young adults, which includes the Global Mission Fellows --US-2 track and International track as well as Global Justice Volunteers and Individual Volunteers.

With annual conference came new appointments for some of the district mission secretaries. Wally Calaway had resigned his position of Aurora District Mission Secretary due to his move to Texas. Rev. Steven Mindrup, who had been the Elgin District Mission Secretary moved into the Aurora District and was appointed to serve as Aurora District Mission Secretary. Rev. Eunbae Doh was appointed the new Elgin Mission Secretary. The Rockford District Mission Secretary, Rev. Cheon Eui Oh, moved from that district and is no longer serving in that position. Jan Stone Paris was appointed as the Chicago Southern District Mission Secretary. Rev. Ed Heyer and Linda Frana continue their service as DeKalb District Co-Secretaries. They all work with the NIC Secretary of Global Ministries, Rev. Shirley Pulgar Hughes, to promote missions within the district settings and help with itineration of missionaries when they are available in our conference.

The Rainbow Covenant is one of the ways that the Northern Illinois Conference promotes mission giving – that second mile giving after the apportionments (first mile giving). Our staff person, Michael Mann, helps us in many ways including the work involved with sharing the information about the Rainbow Covenant and promoting the Kit Challenge at annual conference. His help makes our work so much more meaningful.

Anne Genther, Chair

400.31 General Board of Higher Education and Ministry

Greetings from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry! In 2014 and 2015, GBHEM staff has been busy with a number of initiatives assigned to the Board by the 2012 General Conference, including the **Young Clergy Initiative** and the **Central Conference Theological Education Fund**. Here are some of the ways GBHEM has been working to resource our church:

- GBHEM continues to train Group Candidacy Mentors, and Conference Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) members, BOM staff, District Committee on Ministry members, and District Superintendents on ministry legislation and best practices for navigating the ordination process with new candidates.
- Work continues on the **Young Clergy Initiative (YCI)**. Forty-six YCI grants were awarded during the second round of applications in August 2014, bringing the total amount awarded to \$5.5 million. The grants support programs geared toward increasing the number of young clergy in the UMC and supporting young clergy already serving the denomination.
- The **Commission on Central Conference Theological Education** continues to distribute the \$5 million fund for theological education in Africa, Europe, and the Philippines. So far, the commission has awarded 130 grants to fund training for local pastors, faculty development, provision of e-readers, curriculum development, and libraries at theological schools across 22 countries.
- **Africa University** continues to graduate scholars who are changing the face of Africa. The \$50 million Endowment Campaign, a fundraising plan to ensure Africa University's financial independence, is well underway. Contribute online to Africa University at the new giving website, support-africauniversity.org.
- More than 680 college students, campus ministers, and chaplains attended **Imagine What's NEXT** last fall, an event which focused on helping students plan how they can be active in God's dreams for their communities and the world.
- For the 2014-2015 academic year, GBHEM's Office of **Loans and Scholarships** awarded 2,293 recipients a total of over \$5 million. Explore all scholarship

opportunities within the UMC using the scholarship portal at scholarship.umc.org.

- Registration is open now for **Exploration 2015**, a three-day event where young adults ages 18-26 come to hear, discern, and respond to God's call to ordained ministry in The United Methodist Church. This year's event will be held in Orlando, FL, November 6-8. Read more or register at gbhem.org/exploration and follow @explorecalling on Twitter for updates.
- Technology enables us to make our training resources more readily available to the church. The **UMC Cyber Campus** provides free video training sessions and lectures, as well as an online listing of continuing education courses, at umccybercampus.com.
- GBHEM and Discipleship Ministries continue to expand the **E-Reader Project**, a simple, sustainable, and cost-effective way for theology schools in remote areas of Africa and Asia to access current textbooks. Through financial support from annual conferences, local churches, universities, and individual donors like you, we're making theological education available to more people in more places than even before. Learn more or donate at umcereader.org.

400.32 Saint Paul School of Theology www.spst.edu

Saint Paul School of Theology is a seminary of the United Methodist Church that educates leaders to make disciples for Jesus Christ, renew the Church, and transform the world. We are one institution with two campuses, in Oklahoma and Kansas.

In July 2014, Saint Paul welcomed a new President: Rev. H. Sharon Howell, who most recently served as the Executive Director of the Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville. In August, Dr. Elaine Robinson became the Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean for both campus locations. CFO Laura Snow was honored by the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce as CFO of the year for a nonprofit. She has been a driving factor in getting the seminary debt free.

This past academic year, Saint Paul enrolled 231 students from 23 annual conferences and 5 countries on both campuses. The Course of Study School at Saint Paul served 237 students at the Kansas City, Missouri, Springfield, Missouri, and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma locations. Saint Paul is pleased to announce the Saint Paul Fellows Program due to collaborations with the Oklahoma United Methodist Conference and United Methodist Church of the Resurrection. Saint Paul Fellows is a first-of-its-kind pastoral program designed to eliminate student loan debt, immerses students in varied church settings.

Four full-ride scholarships were given to seminary students commencing study in 2015. The three-year Fellows program offers a groundbreaking opportunity to equip candidates called to

full-time ministry with excellent academic formation and real-life pastoral experience while reducing the need for student loans. The awards will cover tuition, books and fees for three years. Two Oklahoma Conference Fellows will receive a student appointment to pastor a small church, including a parsonage and salary to cover living expenses; the two Church of the Resurrection Fellows will receive a stipend to cover living expenses while serving at the 21,000 member congregation's suburban campus in Leawood, KS within the Great Plains Annual Conference.

Saint Paul introduced a new curriculum this year for its masters' degree programs. The Master of Divinity degree has been reduced to 79 credit hours and includes exciting new components to better prepare students for a lifetime of ministry. Each semester students take short courses called "practicums" that are taught by ministry practitioners. These offerings include such skill areas as "budgets and finance", "funerals" and "ministry with children." Students are also required to attend off-campus spiritual formation retreats which are intended to deepen their spirituality. Saint Paul continues to offer the core curriculum that is vital for ministry and emphasizes our long-standing model of action-reflection in which students learn to reflect theologically upon the practice of ministry.

The Native American Ministries Program hosted a group of Native American scholars, elders and clergy who have together written a book on Native Christian Theologies entitled, *Coming Full Circle*. This book will be published by Fortress Press in August 2015 and proceeds will go toward funding Saint Paul's Native American Ministries Program.

Throughout the year we have connected with graduates and donors face to face at gatherings called Holy Conversations. We look forward to more in the upcoming year.

The trustees, faculty, staff, and students of Saint Paul thank you for your interest, prayers and support.

400.33 United Theological Seminary

Report to Annual Conferences of The United Methodist Church

By Wendy J. Deichmann, President

Is God calling you to the ministry of Jesus Christ? Come and check out amazing opportunities for study and spiritual growth in person or online at www.united.edu!

Why United?



- United offers an excellent, accredited M.Div. degree required for ordination in The United Methodist Church.
- United students participate in a community of deep faith and avid learning.
- Degree programs include traditional and/or online classes.
- United specializes in preparing persons for ordination and pastoral ministry.
- Join our graduates' long track record of successful service!

- United's focus on church renewal will prepare you to become an agent of new life and revitalization, Spirit led, a faithful leader in the mission of Jesus Christ!
- At United you can enroll in a hybrid UM Course of Study program.
- United's D.Min. program leads the nation through the faithful ministries of its pastoral graduates.
- United is committed to teaching the Bible and the historic Christian faith, cultivating spiritual formation for personal and social holiness, and renewing the Church for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world

What could be more interesting, important or exciting?

In addition to expanding residential offerings in Dayton, Ohio, United continues to extend its service across the U.S. and the world. United's degree programs are accessible anywhere with Internet service in conjunction with periodic intensive weeks of class and community activities in Dayton.

Please let us know if you have questions about how United can best assist you.

If you would like to help make it possible for a future pastor to study at United, please let us hear from you.

We invite you to call or visit soon! For more information, please contact admissions@united.edu.

Thank you for your prayers, partnership, service and support in the ministry of Jesus Christ!
www.united.edu

400.34 Conference Treasurer Historical Report

400.34 Conference Treasurer Historical Report

Apportionment receipts in 2014 were the lowest in terms of dollars received of the last ten years, and the lowest received in percentage terms in at least 25 years. The Conference Council of Finance and Administration and members of the Cabinet called over 100 local churches to encourage apportionment participation and learned of financial stress in a variety of settings.

CCFA will convene a series of in depth conversations with local church finance leaders to learn of their challenges. What is changing about the financial structure of local churches and what is necessary to enable their continued success? We intend to invite about 100 churches to these events with the stated goal of learning if there are any interventions the CCFA can initiate that stabilizes or strengthens local churches.

While our long-term average in apportionment receipts is \$7 million, CCFA concludes that the more appropriate level of apportionment receipts are \$6 million. We have approached the Bishop for guidance in determining what Conference priorities

should endure at this lower level of income. This is a conversation that will continue throughout 2015.

The Red Door Fund created by an April 2013 Special Session of the annual conference has continued with no deficiencies and no delinquencies. The Fund has accumulated a reserve of \$200,000 to protect the conference guarantee from any obligation that could develop by a weakened performance from any single participating local church.

Apportionment Formula

Every local church shall provide the basis for their apportionment calculation with their Statistical Report, due annually by February 20th. The statistical report data is summarized into three categories of local church expenditures defined below. For each category, a data set of five years is compiled. The highest and lowest of the five years are discarded and the apportionment calculation rates are applied to the average of the three median years. When the most recent year is the lowest of the five (reflecting a trend of recent budget constriction), the apportionment calculation rates are applied to the average of the three lowest years.

Apportionment Basis: Statistical Report Categories

- 1. Senior & Associate Pastor Costs** (Basis for Support for Ordained Leadership Apportionment) The sum of these lines if multiplied by 16% to determine the local church apportionment in support of the "Support for Ordained Leadership" work of the annual conference.
 - Line 48: Senior Pastor base compensation (minus equitable compensation funds received from the Annual Conference)
 - Line 49: Associate Pastor base compensation
 - Line 50: Senior & Associate Pastor Housing Allowance (OR 25% of base compensation for parsonage appointments) + Senior & Associate Pastor's parsonage utilities and maintenance costs
 - Line 51: Accountable reimbursements
 - Line 52: Other cash allowances
- 2. Church Programs & Operational Costs** (Basis for Mission & Evangelism Apportionment). The sum of these lines is multiplied by 14% to establish the local church apportionment in support of the "Mission and Evangelism" work of the annual conference.
 - Line 53: Deacon's compensation & benefits
 - Line 55: Lay staff compensation & benefits (except custodial)
 - Line 56: Church Program costs
 - Line 57: Church building utilities, custodial costs, property maintenance costs, property insurance costs, other operational costs (Portion of utility, custodial and property costs incurred by space-sharing is excluded; utility, custodial and property costs per average attender above the 80th percentile are excluded)

3. Total Church Expenditures¹ (Basis for Strengthening the Connection Apportionment) the sum of all of the statistical lines itemized above and the lines specified below is multiplied by 1% to generate the apportionment of that particular local church to the “Strengthening the Connection” work of the annual conference.

Line 35-42: Total funds sent through the Conference Office for second-mile, designated giving (Rainbow Covenant projects, missionary support, UMCOR disaster relief, Conference & District projects and Special Sunday Offerings)

Line 43b: Community Outreach funds (costs of the local church in ministry and of service to the community)

Line 43a: Funds given directly to UMC related causes

Line 44: Funds given directly to non-UMC related causes

Line 46: Clergy pension payments (CPP, CRSP)²

Line 47: Clergy health benefits payments

Line 48-57: Senior & Associate Pastor Costs + Church Programs & Operational Costs

Additional Considerations

The apportionment calculations based on the above categories are adjusted with two additional considerations called “According to Means” functions. These two functions provide fine tuning to the apportionment amount based upon a local church's access to resources from within the congregation.

- a. The local church spending on cash compensation plus reimbursements and allowances for the Senior and Associate Pastor is compared to the spending of other local churches of like size. A linear regression of the data predicts a pastoral compensation level for each church given their average attendance. The amount above or below that prediction is called the “Pastoral Residual”. For each local church their individual Pastoral Residual number is cubed and multiplied by .0000000001. The resultant adds (or subtracts) from the apportionment requested from the local church as summed above. The basis for the Pastor Residual additional consideration is the most recent Senior & Associate Pastor compensation data available and the most recent year’s average attendance at all weekly worship services.
- b. The basis for the Budget Size additional consideration is the most recent year’s Senior & Associate Pastor Costs plus Church Programs & Operational Costs (Statistical Report Lines 48-57). For each local church

¹ Two statistical report lines are excluded entirely from the Apportionment calculation:

Line 58: Total paid on mortgage or loan principal and interest

Line 59: Total paid for capital expenditures, major renovations, and building improvements

² Line 46 was previously categorized under 1. Senior & Associate Pastor Costs

the total is squared and multiplied by .00000005. this amount is added to the apportioned asking of the specific local church.

Exceptions

1. Each apportionment amount must be divisible by 12.
2. The apportionment for any year may not be more than 9% above the previous year and not less than 9% below the previous year.
3. The minimum apportionment shall be \$1,200.
4. Building costs per average attender that exceed the 80th percentile of the array of conference churches shall not be included in the calculations.
5. Up to 1% of the total apportioned can be reserved for the CCFA to respond to appeals from local churches. Appeals may only be extended by CCFA for data errors or hardship.

Audit

Again, the Northern Illinois Conference received an unqualified approval of our annual audit. The complete audit is part of this report. No management letter was written because no significant deficiencies were identified.

I am thankful for the opportunity of serving as Conference Treasurer and apologize broadly to all who are still waiting on a return phone call.

Grace and Peace,

Lonnie Chafin
Conference Treasurer
Programs & Operational Costs

Church ID	Church Name	2014				
		Mission Sites & New Church Start Funds	Health Insurance Grants	Write-off Unpaid Pension, Health, & Property Insurance	Received from Closed Church Fund	Total Conference Support
ConfChurc	ChurchName	Conf support	Grant	Medical	Closed Churc	Total
10001	Aurora: Bethany of Fox Valley	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
10002	Aurora: First (Closed)	-	-	-	(91)	(91)
10003	Aurora: Nueva Vida	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
10004	Aurora: Fourth Street	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
10017	Glen Ellyn: St. Thomas	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
10022	Joliet: Ingalls Park	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
10026	Joliet: Trinity	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
10031	Lockport: First	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
10033	Lombard: First	-	-	1,217	-	1,217
10062	Wheaton: Aldersgate	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
10070	Orland Park: First Korean	-	-	4,247	-	4,247
20004	Chicago: Bethany/Jesus, El Buen Pastor	-	-	37,303	-	37,303
20005	Chicago: Emanuel	6,000	-	13,364	-	19,364
20010	Chicago: Edison Park	12,000	2,600	-	-	14,600
20014	Chicago: Elston Avenue	6,000	3,900	22,080	-	31,980
20016	Chicago: Epworth	15,000	2,600	-	-	17,600
20019	Chicago: Grace of Logan Square	18,000	2,600	-	-	20,600
20020	Chicago: Granville Avenue	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
20022	Chicago: Humboldt Park	10,000	3,900	23,622	-	37,522
20023	Chicago: Irving Park	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
20026	Chicago: Mandell	16,000	1,350	-	-	17,350
20029	Chicago: New Hope	9,000	3,900	-	-	12,900
20030	Chicago: Olivet	16,000	-	-	-	16,000
20032	Chicago: Parish of the Holy Covenant	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
20034	Chicago: St. Matthew	-	-	41,764	5,847	47,610
20036	Chicago: United Church of Rogers Park	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
20038	Chicago: West Ridge	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
20075	Chicago: Adalberto Memorial	8,100	-	-	-	8,100
20077	Chicago: First Vietnamese	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
20080	Chicago: Indo Pak	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
20104	Wheeling/Chicago: Journey Community	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
20108	Hillside/Bellwood: Xperience Church	17,000	-	-	32,640	49,640
20195	Melrose Park: Stone Park Mission	11,000	-	-	-	11,000
20999	Arabic Language NFC	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
30005	Brookfield: Compassion	28,834	-	-	-	28,834
30006	Chicago: Ashburn/Getsemani NFC	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
30015	Chicago: Englewood	-	-	9,120	-	9,120
30016	Chicago: Faith	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
30025	Chicago: Amor de Dios	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
30028	Chicago: Lincoln	9,100	-	-	-	9,100
30034	Chicago: Greenstone	4,000	-	-	-	4,000

Church ID	Church Name	2014				
		Mission Sites & New Church Start Funds	Health Insurance Grants	Write-off Unpaid Pension, Health, & Property Insurance	Received from Closed Church Fund	Total Conference Support
30035	Chicago: Rust Memorial	-	-	-	4,185	4,185
30036	Chicago: St. James (Closed)	-	-	-	84,885	84,885
30037	Chicago: St. Mark	-	-	33,719	-	33,719
30039	Chicago: Southlawn	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
30040	Chicago: South Shore	-	-	17,900	-	17,900
30042	Chicago: Union Avenue	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
30048	Chicago: West Englewood	-	-	7,664	-	7,664
30051	Cicero: Wesley	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
30053	Dolton: Faith	2,500	-	-	-	2,500
30055	Flossmore: South Suburban Korean	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
30059	Hazel Crest: Community	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
30067	Olympia Fields	-	-	8,487	-	8,487
30068	Park Forest: Grace United Protestant	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
30070	Riverside	-	-	28,386	-	28,386
30073	University Park: Pilgrimage	4,000	-	-	-	4,000
30079	Harvey: First Wesley Academy	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
30101	Chicago: Urban Village (South Loop & Hy	24,000	-	-	-	24,000
30102	Chicago Lawn/Roca Fuerte Hispanic Mini	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
30103	Chicago: Generation to Generation NFC	10,451	-	-	-	10,451
40001	Albany	-	2,955	-	-	2,955
40007	Compton	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
40021	Genoa: Faith	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
40026	Kingston	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
40035	Malta	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
40037	Maple Park: Grace	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
40044	Ohio (Closed)	-	-	-	1,261	1,261
40046	Ottawa: Epworth	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
40047	Ottawa: Evangelical	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
40049	Paw Paw	6,000	-	-	-	6,000
40055	Red Oak (Bureau)	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
40061	Serena	-	6,500	-	-	6,500
40069	Tampico	-	6,500	-	-	6,500
40073	Wedron	3,000	-	-	-	3,000
40999	Dixon: The Rock	2,000	-	-	-	2,000
50001	Addison: Good Samaritan	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
50008	Barrington: Salem	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
50010	Bensenville: First	-	-	8,700	-	8,700
50018	Dundee: First	-	3,900	3,831	-	7,731
50019	Elgin: El Mesias	2,500	-	2,600	-	5,100
50025	Elk Grove: Prince of Peace	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
50029	Fox River Grove: Community	7,206	-	-	-	7,206
50034	Harvard: First	-	1,300	-	-	1,300

Church ID	Church Name	2014				
		Mission Sites & New Church Start Funds	Health Insurance Grants	Write-off Unpaid Pension, Health, & Property Insurance	Received from Closed Church Fund	Total Conference Support
50041	Lindenhurst: Trinity	-	-	12,148	-	12,148
50043	McHenry: First	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
50063	Waukegan: First	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
50065	Wood Dale: Community Church	-	-	24,038	-	24,038
50069	Schaumburg: Salem Korean	-	-	7,400	-	7,400
50070	Prospect Heights: Central Korean	-	-	24,710	-	24,710
50072	Buffalo Grove: YangMoon Korean	3,000	-	13,393	-	16,393
50076	Waukegan: San Pablo	9,000	3,900	20,250	-	33,150
50192	Mt. Prospect: Sam Mool Korean	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
50193	Carpentersville: Bethel	11,500	-	-	-	11,500
60004	Belvidere: First	12,000	-	-	-	12,000
60015	Durand	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
60019	Forreston	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
60021	Freeport: Faith	-	1,300	-	-	1,300
60022	Freeport: First	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
60037	Orangeville	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
60039	Pearl City: First	-	3,900	-	-	3,900
60047	Rockford: Bethany (Closed)	-	-	-	(11,020)	(11,020)
60051	Rockford: Centennial Multicultural	8,000	-	-	-	8,000
60053	Rockford: Christ the Carpenter	10,000	-	-	11,000	21,000
60063	Savanna: First	-	2,600	-	-	2,600
60101	Rockford: The Net Church	30,720	-	-	7,615	38,335
	Aurora District	36,000	15,600	5,464	(91)	56,973
	Chicago Northwestern District	187,600	33,850	138,133	38,486	398,070
	Chicago Southern District	111,885	20,800	105,275	89,070	327,030
	DeKalb District	26,000	30,255	-	1,261	57,516
	Elgin District	41,206	20,800	117,071	-	179,078
	Rockford District	60,720	18,200	-	7,595	86,515
	Northern Illinois Conference Total	463,411	139,505	365,944	136,322	1,105,182